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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: The United States Government recognizes the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arms Control & Disarmament

New Positions Advanced at 'Open Skies' Meeting *[TASS]* 1

Worldwide Issues

Pankin, Grachev on Foreign Ministry Restructuring *[TASS]* 1
World Bank Agreement Focuses on Agrarian Reform *[TASS]* 2
Continuing Reportage on Madrid Peace Conference 2
IZVESTIYA Views First Day *[5 Nov]* 2
Commentary Details Proceedings *[Moscow International]* 3
PRAVDA Reviews Results, Prospects *[5 Nov]* 4
COMECON Dissolution Creates 'Huge Losses' *[Moscow International]* 5
Impact of 'European Economic Space' Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 1 Nov]* 5

United States & Canada

Gorbachev Receives Atwood Defense Team 5
Economic Reform Discussed *[TASS]* 5
Pankin, Volskiy Participate *[TASS]* 6
Chemical Weapons Elimination Proposed *[TASS]* 6
COCOM Restrictions Discussed *[INTERFAX]* 6
Ministries Abolishment Confirmed *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Plan To Exchange Art for Food Revealed *[TASS]* 7
Culture Officials Deny Deal *[TASS]* 7
Kerr Receives Security, Intelligence Group *[IZVESTIYA 5 Nov]* 7
Commentary Notes Increased SDI Funding *[Moscow International]* 8

Northeast Asia

U.S.-ROK Maneuvers Said 'From the Past' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Nov]* 8

Near East & South Asia

Israeli Envoy on Peace Efforts, Republic Ties *[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 30 Oct]* 9
Najibollah Pledges To Accept Free Elections *[PRAVDA 4 Nov]* 9

Sub-Saharan Africa

Foreign Ministry Statement on Botha Visit *[TASS]* 11
Further Details Given *[TASS]* 11
Military Aid to Mengistu's Ethiopia Detailed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 2 Nov]* 12

East Europe

No Economic Sanctions Planned Against SFRY *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 12

West Europe

Agreement on Draft Finnish Friendship Treaty *[TASS]* 12
Commission Debates Withdrawal From Germany *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 24 Oct]* 12
Silayev Receives German Bank Delegation *[INTERFAX]* 13

Latin America & Caribbean

Talks on Departure From Cuba 'May' Begin Soon *[INTERFAX]* 13

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Supreme Soviet

Soviet of Union Debates Gorbachev Bank Appeal *[TASS]* 14
Soviet of Union Appoints Committee Chairmen *[PRAVDA 5 Nov]* 14
Kazakh Writer To Chair Soviet of Republics *[IZVESTIYA 31 Oct]* 14

Political & Social

Criminal Proceedings Leveled Against Gorbachev 14
Controversy Over Baltics *[PRAVDA 6 Nov]* 14
Charges Dropped *[TASS]* 15
Moldova, Ukraine Sign Economic Community Treaty *[TASS]* 15
Wrap-Up of State Council Session Results *[IZVESTIYA 6 Nov]* 15
Barannikov on Reform of Internal Affairs Bodies *[TASS]* 17
Structure, Name for Foreign Ministry Viewed 17
'External Relations' Ministry Set Up *[IZVESTIYA 6 Nov]* 17
Pankin To Submit Blueprint *[INTERFAX]* 18
Pankin News Conference *[Moscow Radio]* 18
Military Officer Against Plan *[INTERFAX]* 18
Mixed Plans, Reactions to Oct Anniversary *[PRAVDA 5 Nov]* 19
Democratic Reforms Movement Council Meets *[TASS]* 20
Liberal Democratic Party Activities Viewed 20
Ethnic Concerns Addressed *[Moscow TV]* 20
Zhirinovskiy Remarks on Goals *[INTERFAX]* 21
Preparation of 200 Libel Suits *[Moscow TV]* 21
CPSU Foreign Trade Relations, Policy Viewed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 31 Oct]* 21
CPSU Activities Possible Cause of Suicides *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 19 Oct]* 24
Update on 'Communist Initiative' Youth Movement *[PRAVDA 29 October]* 25
Communists for Citizens' Rights Movement Formed *[Moscow Radio]* 26
Workers' Party Referendum Appeal Dismissed *[IZVESTIYA 1 Nov]* 26
Democratic Union Urges Provisional Government *[INTERFAX]* 26
Yazov Lawyers Interviewed on Coup Investigation *[MOSCOW NEWS 20-27 Oct]* 26
Threat of 'Political Revenge' Viewed *[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 30 Oct]* 27
Silayev Urges Azerbaijan To Supply Armenia Gas *[Radio Rossii]* 29
Government Handling of Economic Crisis Polled *[PRAVDA 5 Nov]* 29
Poll Results Indicate Pervasive Pessimism *[PRAVDA 26 Oct]* 30
Ministry Plan To Sell Lenin's Body Denied *[TASS]* 31
Barannikov To Sue Over Report *[TASS]* 31

Economic

Bank Officials Brief IEC on Foreign Debt *[INTERFAX]* 31
'Sharp Downturn' in 1991 Foreign Trade Reviewed *[MOSCOW NEWS 27 Oct-3 Nov]* 32
Country's Gold Industry Experiences 'Crisis' *[Moscow TV]* 33
Private Mining Considered *[INTERFAX]* 33
Lobov on 'Dwindling' Reserves *[Radio Rossii]* 34
Official Remarks on Proposal To Mark Money *[TRUD 30 Oct]* 34

Military

Shaposhnikov Discusses Military Issues 5 Nov 35
Stresses Unified Armed Forces *[Moscow Radio]* 35
Details Republic National Guards *[TASS]* 35
Views Presence in Cuba *[INTERFAX]* 36
Accommodating Returning Servicemen Viewed *[Moscow TV]* 36
Naval Base To Be Built in Krasnodar Kray *[Moscow Radio]* 37
Admiral Denies Report *[TASS]* 37

Conference Aids Moves to Market Economy *[TASS]* 37
KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on Baltic Withdrawal *[1 Nov]* 37
Military Joint-Stock Company Created *[Moscow Radio]* 38
Fuel Shortage Prevents Fleet From Duties *[Radio Rossii]* 40

BALTIC COUNTRIES

Estonia

South African Foreign Minister Botha Visits 41
Holds News Conference *[BALTFAX]* 41
Meets Ruutel, Discusses Ties *[Tallinn Radio]* 41
Parliament Again Debates Citizenship Issue *[BALTFAX]* 41
Ethnic Relations Minister Questioned *[Tallinn Radio]* 41
KGB Offices Hand Over Property *[BALTFAX]* 42
Milk Shortages Reported in Tallinn *[BALTFAX]* 42

Latvia

Army Property 'Declared' Latvian Property *[TASS]* 42
Lists of Delegates for Russia Talks Confirmed *[Riga Radio]* 42
Group To Attend Kiev Meeting as 'Observer' *[BALTFAX]* 43
Grain for Winter 'Probably' From Canada *[BALTFAX]* 43

Lithuania

South Africa Ready To Restore Ties *[Radio Vilnius]* 43
New Law on Currency Passed *[BALTFAX]* 43
New Currency Delayed for Political Reasons *[BALTFAX]* 43
Parliament Passes Emigration Law *[BALTFAX]* 44
Foreign Ministry Urges Return of Property *[BALTFAX]* 44
Defense Minister Views Concepts, Policies *[Radio Vilnius]* 44
Labor Party Pickets at Supreme Council Building *[Radio Vilnius]* 44
'Hasty Move' to World Prices May Hurt Trade *[INTERFAX]* 45
Minister Abisala Tenders Resignation *[BALTFAX]* 45

RSFSR

Fifth Congress of People's Deputies

Resolution Curbs Elections During Reforms *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 5 Nov]* 46
Resolution on President's Economic Powers *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 5 Nov]* 46

Federation Affairs

Filshin Remarks on Ensuring Debt Repayment *[AFP]* 47
Russia To Pay 61 Percent *[Russian TV]* 47
Yeltsin Adviser Says Next Year Key to Reform *[Budapest NEPSZAVA 31 Oct]* 47
Details of Yeltsin Foreign Trade Decree Noted *[Radio Rossii]* 48
Leadership Prepares for 'Extreme Situation' *[TASS]* 48
Yeltsin To Form 'Russian Reform Government' *[IZVESTIYA 6 Nov]* 49
Silayev on Independence, Economic Agreement *[MOSCOW NEWS 20-27 Oct]* 50
Yeltsin Seeks 'Democratic Russia' Support *[Moscow TV]* 50
Council Accepts Tuva's Border Proposal *[INTERFAX]* 51
Chief Editor Comments on Freedom of Press *[PRAVDA 1 Nov]* 51
IZVESTIYA on 3 Nov Military Parade *[31 Oct]* 52

Local Affairs

Chechen Official on Election of Dzhakhar Dudayev *[TASS]* 52
'Confusion' Follows Elections *[IZVESTIYA 31 Oct]* 52
Opposition Demands New Elections *[TASS]* 53

Chechens Refuse To Follow Dudayev *[Radio Rossii]* 53
Dudayev Issues First Decree *[Moscow Radio]* 53
People Called To Support Dudayev *[PRAVDA 4 Nov]* 53
Chechen Parliament Meets, Holds Elections 27 Oct 54
Elects Akhmadov Chairman *[TASS]* 54
Adopts Chechen, Russian Languages *[INTERFAX]* 54
Abolishes KGB *[INTERFAX]* 54
Nationalizes Property *[INTERFAX]* 54
Bans Supreme Council Activity *[Moscow Radio]* 55
Rally Held To Retain Chechen-Ingush Republic *[Radio Rossii]* 55
Ingush Leader on Seizing Part of Vladikavkaz *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 2 Nov]* 55
Chechen-Ingush Interior Ministry Issues Appeal *[TASS]* 55
Chechen-Ingush Protests Georgian 'Interference' *[Moscow Radio]* 56
Kalmykia Presidential Candidates Lack Votes *[TASS]* 56
Koryaksky Breaks From Kamchatka Region *[TASS]* 56
Rationing of Bread, Other Staples in Moscow *[Moscow International]* 56
Moscow, Moscow Region To Become One District *[INTERFAX]* 56
Moscow Soviet Aide on City Hall 'Duel' *[PRAVDA 19 Oct]* 57
Moskovskaya Tribuna Members Grill Popov *[MOSCOW NEWS 20-27 Oct]* 58
Sverdlovsk Appeals to Yeltsin for Economic Aid *[TASS]* 59
Tatar Democratic Reforms Movement Opens Congress *[TASS]* 60
Nationalities Question Controversial *[INTERFAX]* 60
Udmurt Presidency Issue Remains Unresolved *[PRAVDA 1 Nov]* 60
Jewish Autonomous Oblast Seeks Republic Status *[IZVESTIYA 1 Nov]* 60

International Affairs

Foreign Minister Kozyrev Plans Visit to U.S. *[INTERFAX]* 61
Official on Kurils, Relations With Japan *[Moscow TV]* 61
Prosecutor General on 'Illegal' Arrest of Chief *[TASS]* 62

WESTERN REPUBLICS

Belorussia

Popular Front Plans Two Events for 7 Nov *[INTERFAX]* 63
Cabinet Discusses Preparations for Winter *[Minsk Radio]* 63
Economic Agreement Signed With Kyrgyzstan *[Moscow Radio]* 63
No Plans To Move Troops From Baltic *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Nov]* 63

Moldova

Republic To Sign Economic Commonwealth Treaty *[TASS]* 63
President on Treaty Signing *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 64
Parliament Disagrees on Independence Vote *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 64
Prime Minister Reviews Bucharest Visit *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 64
Banking Agreement Signed With Romania *[INTERFAX]* 64
Popular Front Holds Anti-Snegur Rally *[TASS]* 64
Savings Bank Reportedly Stops Cash Flow *[INTERFAX]* 65
'Strict Economy' in Electricity, Gas, Fuel Use *[TASS]* 65
Two Members of Riga Militia Detachment Arrested *[TASS]* 65

Ukraine

Republic To Sign Economic Treaty 6 Nov *[Radio Rossii]* 65
Ratification of Economic Treaty *[TASS]* 65
Massive Privatization To Begin 1 Jan *[INTERFAX]* 66
Deputies Want Referendum Wording Changed *[INTERFAX]* 66
Crimean Parliament To Pass Referendum Law *[INTERFAX]* 66
Parliament Adopts Laws on State Borders *[Kiev International]* 66
Parliament Adopts Customs Code *[Kiev Radio]* 67
Carpathian MD Aide Denies Removal of Arms *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Nov]* 67

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Leader Flies to Moscow; Fuel Crisis Worsens *[Radio Rossii]* 68
Leader Appeals to Moscow Over Azerbaijan *[TASS]* 68
Gas Line From Moscow 'Completely Shut Off' *[Moscow Radio]* 68

Azerbaijan

Parliament Recognizes Georgia's Independence *[INTERFAX]* 69
'Peace Action' With Armenia, Russia Noted *[Russian TV]* 69
Further Reportage on NKAO Incidents 70
Sources Predict Attacks *[INTERFAX]* 70
Curfew Reduced Two Hours *[TASS]* 70
Troops' Presence 'Not Expedient' *[TASS]* 70
'Ordinary People' Want Peace *[PRAVDA 4 Nov]* 70
Commandant, Observers on Situation *[ARMENPRESS]* 71
Parliament Decrees 7, 8 Nov 'Work Days' *[IZVESTIYA 6 Nov]* 71
Reportage on Prime Minister's Turkey Visit *[cross-reference]* 71

Georgia

Parliament Suspends Law on Political Parties *[Moscow TV]* 71
Further on South Ossetia Conflict 71
Situation 'Very Tense' *[Moscow Radio]* 71
Tbilisi Denounces Media 'Lies' *[Tbilisi Radio]* 72
Bombs Explode at Two Parliamentarians' Homes *[INTERFAX]* 72
Parliament Chairman Views Political Situation *[Budapest NEPSZABADSAG 1 Nov]* 72

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev's Involvement in Rally Denied *[INTERFAX]* 74

Kyrgyzstan

President Supports Yeltsin Reform Program *[TASS]* 74
Akayev Wants To Learn From Bush Apparatus *[INTERFAX]* 74
Islamic Conference Membership Bid Denied *[Radio Rossii]* 74

Tajikistan

Republic Appeal to Citizens Detailed *[Dushanbe Radio]* 74
Bank Official Refutes Rumors of New Currency *[INTERFAX]* 75
Draft Governed by USSR General Staff Accord *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Nov]* 75

Uzbekistan

More Reportage on Cypriot President's Visit *[IZVESTIYA 1 Nov]* 75
Supreme Soviet Against 7 Nov Demonstrations *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 2 Nov]* 75
Republic Cotton Harvest Plan Fulfilled *[IZVESTIYA 31 Oct]* 75

Arms Control & Disarmament

New Positions Advanced at 'Open Skies' Meeting

LD0611120491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1717 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna, 5 Nov (TASS)—Fundamentally new aspects in the Soviet position, which now make it possible to begin most actively the drawing up of the text of the "Open Skies" agreement, were put forward at the plenary sitting of the international conference on this topic which took place here today. Representatives of 22 NATO and East European countries are taking part. Envoys of neutral and nonaligned states, and also of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, are attending as observers.

In order to resolve the deadlock which had been reached at the talks, the USSR stated its readiness to open the entire territory of the country for familiarization flights by inspection planes. As far as the problems of flight quotas and also the selection of observational apparatus are concerned, disagreements over which prevented any forward movement at the previous two rounds of the conference, the Soviet Union proceeds from the premise that the "Open Skies" regime is not some kind of immutable measure, but will develop and be perfected.

In the opinion of the Soviet side, during the first stage of the implementation of this regime, the quotas for the USSR and United States could amount to as many as 40 flights annually. For groups of states which have less territory compared to the USSR and the United States—for instance, Germany, France, and Canada—a quota of up to 20-25 flights could be set annually. For even smaller states, under 10 flights. During the second stage, let us say two or three years after it has become operational, the question of the advisability of changing the set quotas could be returned to. For instance, they could be increased for the United States and the USSR to 52 flights annually; that is, one per week.

The Soviet delegation thinks that the principle of the development in stages of the "Open Skies" regime also could be used to resolve the problem of selecting observation apparatus. In the first stage, this could include, in particular, optic and electron-optic equipment. During the second stage, the question of expanding the selection of apparatus by including infrared sensors could be examined.

Worldwide Issues

Pankin, Grachev on Foreign Ministry Restructuring

LD0511174191 Moscow TASS in English 1640 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Petukhov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow November 5 TASS—The USSR State Council on Monday [4 November] considered changes in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Armed Forces, Interior Ministry agencies and the USSR Procurator-general's Office, presidential spokesman Andrey Grachev told a briefing here today.

He said after lengthy and detailed discussions the State Council worked out and unanimously approved resolutions on improving and restructuring these branches of the state machinery.

Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, who took part in the briefing, told journalists that the ministry he heads will be henceforth called the Ministry of Foreign Relations. He also said that during the meeting of the State Council none of the republics insisted on establishing their own embassies abroad, as a result of discussions the State Council chose a form of sending permanent envoys of republics to Soviet embassies.

The council found it advisable for the state to direct the country's single foreign and foreign economic policy through one state agency. In this light, Pankin said, Soviet trade missions abroad were seen as "outdated structures". They will be dismantled and replaced by trade and economic departments to be established in Soviet embassies.

Asked in what way the Soviet Union will vote in the United Nations under new conditions in which sovereign republics may differ in their views on international problems, including the Middle East issue, Pankin stressed the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Union and sovereign republics would act as a coordinating body, and decisions on the most important problems would be made by the top leaders within the framework of the State Council.

Pankin touched upon the discussion of the Yugoslav problem by George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev in Madrid. He said the two presidents felt at a loss as to how Serbia and Croatia could be helped to bring about a cease-fire. They planned consultations with European Communities and a search for ways to settle the conflict within the framework of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Soviet foreign minister said he was "moderately optimistic" about the Middle East peace conference. He said "optimism had risen by some degrees" after the delegations left the Spanish capital to continue talks on the bilateral basis.

Asked about the Soviet stance with regard to transforming the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, Andrey Grachev said Moscow was expecting NATO's confirmation of its "organic connection with the European process" and the absence of the bloc's orientation against central and eastern Europe.

Responding to a question about the fate of the staffers of the eighty-odd Union ministries to be abolished in

accordance with a State Council decision, Grachev said an estimated 30,000 to 50,000 people were to be released, according to estimates. Some specialists will work in new structures, including at the republican level. Along with this, Grachev admitted that problems with job placements and social insurance of these people will be a major headache above all in Moscow. He did not rule out the possibility of personal dramas.

Grachev told journalists Mikhail Gorbachev's book "The Putsch in August" will soon appear in Russia. Part of the print-run has already been completed.

World Bank Agreement Focuses on Agrarian Reform

LD0511150491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1355 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 5 Nov (TASS)—A cooperation agreement was signed in the Kremlin today by President Mikhail Gorbachev and Lewis T. Preston, president and chairman of the Executive Directorate of the World Bank. Following a similar agreement with the IMF in September, this represents another major step toward integrating our economy into world structures. It has been annonced officially that there was a substantive exchange of opinions on specific and urgent actions flowing from this agreement—first and foremost on the subject of accelerating progress in land reform. Special emphasis was laid on developing a program for modernizing the agrarian sector, highlighting technical, consultative, and organizational assistance in establishing a system for processing, storage, and transport of food resources.

Lewis Preston reported that he would appoint a well-qualified team, knowledgeable about our problems and potential, to draw up this project with our specialists.

Preliminary work in this sphere shows that the implementation of the agrarian project could give useful results in the near future. The agreement has been coordinated with the republics and some of them are prepared to immediately join in implementing it.

The president reported that he will give immediate instructions on the formation of a group of responsible individuals which would be charged with practical cooperation with the World Bank on the basis of the agreement signed, in the first instance in the agrarian sphere.

The wish was also expressed that the World Bank might also demonstrate interest in other areas of economic reform.

Lewis Preston regards the signing of the agreement as a good signal for launching economic cooperation at a level to match the level of political dialogue attained between our country and the West. There was a common view that this agreement with the World Bank lays the foundation for an immense amount of work which could yield fairly rapid effects for the country's population. The total freedom of action afforded to the peasant by agrarian legislation and the creation of modern agrobusiness with the help of the World Bank and foreign investments provide for a breakthrough to be made in one of the areas which is now of decisive importance for overcoming the crisis—food supplies.

Continuing Reportage on Madrid Peace Conference

IZVESTIYA Views First Day

PM0511171391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Nov 91 Union Edition pp 1, 4

[Correspondent V. Vernikov report: "Stormy Day in Madrid"]

[Text] Madrid—Sunday's chronicle of events at the Madrid peace conference on the Near East might have "unsaddled" anyone, but not U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. It all began with good news in the morning: The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation had met, just as planned, with the Israelis at 1000 hours. Then a one-hour "diplomatic recess" was taken, and after dinner there was another meeting. But there was a complete lack of clarity and a mass of rumors and of subsequently unconfirmed "reliable" information about the Israelis' talks with the Lebanese and the Syrians.

At last it became known that at 1500 hours the Lebanese sat at the same negotiating table in the Parcen Palace as had been occupied a few hours previously by the Jordanians and Palestinians, that the discussion proceeded in raised tones in connection with the bombing raids on southern Lebanon by Israeli aircraft, and that it had been decided to continue the dialogue. The Syrians were unyielding but did not leave Madrid, executed complex diplomatic maneuvers, and "abandoned hope of reaching agreement." The Palace Hotel, where the U.S. delegation was staying, was besieged by journalists throughout the day—until 2200 hours. All the conference participants were making shuttle trips to see the U.S. secretary of state there.

A compromise was being sought on a problem which had suddenly cropped up: Where and when are the bilateral talks to begin—in Madrid, in one or in three small ancient palaces made available by the Spanish Government, in another country or even in other countries, simultaneously or separately? This was certainly not an argument over "technical questions" but over fundamental ones: It was simply unacceptable to the Syrians to meet in Jerusalem and then, by turns, in Arab capitals, as proposed by Israel. It is asserted that Baker did not have to spend long persuading the Israeli representatives to abandon this option, and that all the others were the reason for the delay in starting the meeting.

The Syrian and Israeli delegations met in the same Parcen Palace at 2200 hours, when the conference seemed to be hanging by a thread. The deed was done: The bilateral talks, albeit at present only of a procedural nature, on future specific political problems had begun. At the present stage in the conference's work this was

almost the most important and complex thing—to seat one on one, opposite each other, at the same table, sides which have been opposed to each other for more than 40 years.

Baker, who played his part brilliantly, held another news conference in the "Glass Palace" of the press center at 2215. He was clearly satisfied with what had been achieved, reckoning the mission of the cochairmen, i.e. the United States and the USSR, to have been fulfilled, and voiced confidence that the talks process, having developed a certain dynamism, would continue. But it is up to the Madrid conference participants themselves to decide when and where.

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister A. Belonogov held a news conference after the U.S. secretary of state. The news which he imparted at once became a sensation: Mikhail Gorbachev had used all his influence and, by all accounts, very earnest arguments in a conversation with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad Sunday [3 November] morning in order to persuade him to continue the talks, take a more constructive stand, and not wreck the conference. As you can surmise, it took the Syrian delegation the whole day to elaborate a new line of conduct, but the day nonetheless ended successfully.

No one had been expecting these first bilateral meetings to produce any political results, and so the calm and reassuring communique on the almost seven-hour talks between the Jordanian-Palestinian and Israeli delegations came as a pleasant surprise. It speaks of the intention to continue them, based on UN General Assembly Resolutions 242 and 338, whose basis is the return of the Israeli-occupied territories. Although each side makes its own interpretation of these resolutions, at a meeting with journalists Palestinian spokeswoman H. 'Ashrawi openly expressed optimism at the possibility of reaching an accord but demanded for the Palestinian delegation the right to speak "with a calm voice" at the next stages—in other words, to have its own delegation.

Photojournalists had an opportunity to take a truly symbolic photograph: On addressing journalists at the end of the dialogue E. Rubinstein, Israel's representative and secretary of the prime minister's office, and H. 'Abd-al-Shafi, leader of the Palestinian delegation, exchanged a handshake for all to see. Spanish television showed this moment repeatedly, and it has to be said that the faces of the two "guilty parties" expressed bewilderment, as it were, at the unexpected nature of what had happened, which, incidentally, is so natural in normal human intercourse. Obviously bearing in mind this episode and the happy outcome to Sunday, Spanish Foreign Minister F. Fernandez-Ordonez, who was at the airport seeing Baker off to the United States at exactly midnight, even uttered the words "the spirit of Madrid."

Having magnanimously welcomed the participants in the peace conference on the Near East, Spain considers its role over. It really did do an incredible lot in a very short time to ensure that thousands of people could work calmly in its capital in the name of peace. A country which has made an inestimable contribution to the development of three great cultures—Christian, Muslim, and Judaic—and which committed a cruel injustice against two of them five centuries ago has, as it were, repaid a long-standing debt to civilization by becoming the venue, I would like to believe, for a historic meeting.

Commentary Details Proceedings

LD0511163191 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Commentary by Alesksandr Pogodin]

[Text] The parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict have gone through the first stage of the Madrid conference on the Middle East cosponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union. The speeches by President Gorbachev and President Bush at the opening ceremony, observers felt, lent special significance to the event. And now the first stage has been followed by bilateral talks between the immediate parties to the conflict. In our commentary Aleksandr Pogodin speculates on future developments:

There appear to be no grounds for either euphoria or skepticism. The planned pause has set in now. The parties are expected to reach an accord on the venue and time for the future meetings. What's important is that all the parties have confirmed their wish to continue talking. True, the starting positions at the various bilateral talks differ considerably. So far the first conversations between the Israeli and the Jordan-Palestinian delegations appear most encouraging. There are signs positions may come closer and mutual concessions may develop. A vitally important understanding has been reached that the Israeli representatives will hold bilateral talks with the Palestinians alone. This puts the Palestinians on an equal footing with the other Arab delegations.

The Israeli-Lebanese talks, however, have run into difficulties. Lebanon insists that Israeli troops withdraw from its south, while Israel demands that Lebanon install a pro-Israeli government and will stop cooperating with Syria. There are no signs yet that positions may come closer.

The climate at the Syrian-Israeli talks is still worse. Many experts believe that had it not been for President Gorbachev the dialogue would not have opened at all. It seems that the Soviet president telephoned President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and pressured him to continue talking and take a more constructive stand. The talks did take place but ended in mutual accusations of intransigence. The Tuesday's [as heard] official ceremony of laying the cornerstone of new Israeli settlements on the occupied Golan Heights is a move that can hardly promote trust. But still the Syrian-Israeli dialogue is to be continued, which is encouraging.

Peace in the Middle East now depends on whether the parties to the conflict are able to reconsider their stands and stop thinking categorically. The United States and

the Soviet Union will, of course, do all they can to promote the talks but only the Arabs and Israelis can solve their own problems.

PRAVDA Reviews Results, Prospects

PM0511135191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Nov 91 p 4

["My Opinion" article by Sergey Filatov: "Talks about... Talks"]

[Text] "The first stage of the conference in Madrid has ended without results," the news program anchorman told television viewers on Saturday [2 November]. Is it all so unambiguous? Let us try to investigate what has happened between Israel and the Arab countries over the days which their representatives spent in the Spanish capital at the conference table.

First of all each participant in the conference voiced his position on three main elements of a Near East settlement: territories, peace, and security. Jordan refuses to embark on a separate peace with Israel and sees only a "global and definitive solution" to the Near East conflict. Syria insists on the unconditional fulfillment of the UN Security Council resolutions on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied lands, rejecting any territorial compromise. Lebanon also demands the Israelis' withdrawal from its southern regions. The Palestinians asked "while awaiting the definitive decision" on the creation of a Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, that "all occupied Palestinian lands" be transferred to international control. Nor do they reject the prospect of a confederation with Jordan.

In response Israeli Prime Minister Y. Shamir stated that the problem is not one of territories but of recognition of his country by its Arab neighbors, which still refuse Israel the right to exist.

The speeches did not manage without mutual attacks and accusations, although no one slammed the door and all participants patiently listened to the complaints, which enabled the majority of observers—and I am in absolute agreement with them—to assess this as a positive sign.

Of course, the presence in the hall of the two foreign ministers of the countries cochairing the conference, who had a beneficial effect on the course of debate, also made itself felt. I recall that Boris Pankin urged the adversaries to make a "historic compromise." James Baker stressed the readiness of the United States and the USSR to take part in talks and to support the peace process at any time by word and deed, advice and recommendations. Here both cochairmen deliberately gave both sides the opportunity in the future to resolve their problems for themselves, having begun direct talks.

Here the first and probably not the last complication arose. Where to hold the talks? The Arabs unanimously insisted on Madrid. Israel persistently suggested that the second stage of the conference be moved to Near East soil, that it be continued in Jerusalem, Damascus, and Beirut. Behind what appear at first glance to be procedural differences there stands big politics. I think the Arabs are afraid of the transfer of the talks to the Near East because in that case the conference would be out of the spotlights of the international community. In Europe it is being observed by everyone—in the Near East region it could disappear into the shadows where the Israeli pressure, which the Arabs are by no means anxious to experience, would be less noticeable. No one intends to surrender their advantage and concessions will follow only in exchange for counterconcessions. An open stage is needed for this balance.

Meanwhile the cochairmen again played their part, persuading the participants to continue the discussion on the venue for further talks not just anywhere but in Madrid. Sunday was the first day of this new round of the conference. Where will it lead? In my opinion there are several hints.

If, for instance, it is very difficult for Syria and Israel to find a common language—the occupiers do not want to surrender the Golan Heights for the time being—then Shamir has made statements to Lebanon and Jordan which open the opportunity for compromise and politicians cannot fail to take that into account. The attention is also drawn by the fact that the first contacts are beginning between the Israelis and the Palestinians, who are the only Arab participants to have hinted at their readiness to recognize Israel.

In my view one more, as yet not very discernable, threat is concealed in the peace process which is beginning. That it may join the series of unending talks. After all at the second round of the conference the discussion is not about a settlement but only about the venue for future contacts. They are not yet even embarking on the central issues. In general, they are talks about talks.

Sitting down at the same table and discussing problems is an important thing, but not the main thing. In recent history there have been cases when, for instance, the Soviet-U.S. talks in Vienna on the reduction of armed forces and armaments dragged on for decades but failed to produce results. Here, too, debates for the sake of debates will not lead to a settlement. They must agree, make concessions, and seek compromises.

Once again it is in recent history that we shall find the most graphic example of the fact that this is attainable in principle. The Gordian knot of contradictions between the USSR and the United States was only cut after the will of those countries' politicians had been manifested, only after a rapprochement which led to the present level of relations between the two countries had begun at the summit meeting in Geneva. And after all at the time M. Gorbachev was traveling to Switzerland to meet with the leader of U.S. imperialism while R. Reagan was due to meet with the leader of the "Empire of Evil." How everything has changed!

I should like to believe that Madrid will become their Geneva for the Israelis and Arabs. The prospects of an improvement in relations are worth the former and the latter adopting new positions and renouncing old postulates. Now the leaders of the hostile countries must answer the question: Will they be able to display wisdom and willpower? After all the price of a settlement is peace for the peoples of the Near East.

COMECON Dissolution Creates 'Huge Losses'

LD0411110291 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] An assistant of the Soviet permanent representative in the former COMECON [CEMA], Leonid (?Krasnov), has emphasized that as a result of dissolving this powerful international economic organisation all its members have sustained huge losses.

The severance of former ties has brought to a halt a number of industrial facilities due to a shortage of raw materials and components. A number of countries have large stocks of export products that, in their technical performance, cannot compete with western models. The volume of trade between the USSR and its former COMECON partners has dropped by one half this year.

Mr Krasnov believes that the road to cooperation between the Soviet Union and the East European countries lies through various business structures.

Impact of 'European Economic Space' Viewed

PM0511150491 ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

[Yuriy Kashin commentary under "Russia and the World" rubric: "Not To Separate, but To Act Together"]

[Excerpts] An agreement has been signed in Luxembourg between the two largest state groupings on the continent—the "Common Market" and the European Free Trade Association [EFTA]—on setting up a new form of cooperation: a European economic space. In this extensive zone, covering 19 countries with a population of almost 400 million people, there will be free movement of goods, capital, services, and work forces. [passage omitted]

At the same time the decision adopted in Luxembourg is an important signal for the countries of Eastern Europe entering the road of reforms. Their intention to join the EC is scarcely realizable in the foreseeable future, in view of the huge difference in levels of development. The European Community cannot support the burden of these countries' colossal problems without risking disturbing its own stability. The solution lies in an interim decision, in gradual rapprochement. The European Economic Space is to play the role of a bridge, uniting the West with the East European states and the republics of the former USSR, and to put an end to the division of the Old World. Cooperation with Russia and the other sovereign states of the Union which are uniting into a new economic community would correspond to the logic of the process of European integration. And the creation of a Eurasian economic space might have great significance for the integration of the new Union into the world economy.

So, a conclusion of broad significance. For major regional economic groupings the hour has come. The European example, the signing of the free trade agreement in North America and, finally, we hope, a full-blooded economic space on the ruins of the Soviet empire, will confirm this convincingly.

United States & Canada

Gorbachev Receives Atwood Defense Team

Economic Reform Discussed

LD0511163291 Moscow TASS in English 1554 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow November 5 TASS—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev met in the Kremlin today U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Defence [title as received] Donald J. Atwood and the leaders of major U.S. corporations and companies involved in the defence industry.

According to the Soviet presidential spokesman Andrey Grachev, President Gorbachev told participants in the meeting about Monday's [4 November] meeting of the USSR State Council and the intention of the Soviet Union and the leaders of sovereign republics to facilitate consolidated progress of radical economic reforms.

Donald Atwood, Grachev said, told Gorbachev about his impressions of his meetings with the leaders of major industrial enterprises and ministries working in the defence complex. He noted that a number of Soviet enterprises had world-level technologies at their disposal.

Both sides noted that conversion had "promising prospects" to offer, Grachev said. The sides discussed terms for attracting American business people and major industrial corporations to participate in specific conversion projects in the Soviet Union, implying above all joint projects and the transfer of military enterprises to consumer goods production, as well as joint production for the world market, including in the sphere of the aviation industry.

The Soviet president said he would seek to promote the use of U.S. business and financial potential in normalizing the Soviet economy. "I am for mutual dependence because it means predictability and reliability," Gorbachev stressed.

According to the Soviet president, it is time to get rid of the besieged fortress mentality which resulted from the many years the country had spent behind the iron curtain.

The sides also discussed the possibility of attracting U.S. financial potential to reconstruct major Soviet enterprises in the defence industry.

Pankin, Volskiy Participate

LD0511131991 Moscow TASS in English 1300 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] President Mikhail Gorbachev received Donald Atwood, U.S. undersecretary of defence, as well as executives of U.S. defence- sector companies and corporations in the Kremlin today.

Matters aimed at implementing the joint initiative of Gorbachev and George Bush in promoting the Soviet industry conversion to civilian production were discussed during the meeting.

The discussion also involved Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the USSR Scientific and Industrial Union, and Robert Strauss, U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Chemical Weapons Elimination Proposed

LD0511135791 Moscow TASS in English 1325 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By diplomatic correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow November 5 TASS—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev made two important proposals at his meeting with US Defence Minister [title as received] Donald Jesse Atwood, said Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Soviet Scientific and Industrial Union.

The first one deals with joint elimination of chemical weapons. According to some estimates, it could take the United States 10 and the Soviet Union even more years to carry out the job. Cooperation could reduce the term dramatically.

On the other hand, some Soviet military plants' developments are ahead of similar American projects. Cooperation was suggested in that field as well, Volskiy said.

Volskiy made the statement at a news conference on the results of the American military industrial delegation's official visit to the USSR to discuss conversion with their Soviet counterparts.

COCOM Restrictions Discussed

OW0511163891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1518 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy head of the Committee for the Operational Management of the Economy, Arkadiy Volskiy, has told journalists that Mikhail Gorbachev asked the US Deputy Defense Secretary Donald Atwood to take along to George Bush a package of new Soviet proposals concerning conversion and disarmament.

Addressing a news conference that summed up the latest visit to Moscow by a group of American industrialists and government officials, Mr. Volskiy said the Soviet Union invites the United States to begin exchanging technology and launch joint work to accelerate the scrapping of chemical arsenals. Besides, it suggests that American specialists take part in putting sophisticated technologies worked out by the Soviet military-industrial complex to practical uses in the civilian sector.

Mr. Atwood told journalists that the bulk of the US delegation's 8-day visit to the USSR had been devoted to negotiations on how to remove COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] restrictions on Western technology imports into the USSR. He noted that some of the restrictions had been lifted during the past 12 months, and that this process would continue. According to him, the remaining restrictions were a result of his country's fears that new technologies imported by the Soviet Union might be made available to third countries for military uses.

The American official confirmed that the US congress was considering the possibility of transferring $1 billion from the Pentagon budget in assistance to the USSR. He said the United States was determined to encourage conversion in the Soviet Union largely by developing direct contacts between US investors and Soviet munitions plants.

Mr. Bazhanov, representative of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] leadership, stressed the need to ensure that all Western aid within the framework of conversion should be transferred to defense-sector plants on Russian territory exclusively via Russian agencies. According to him, conversion-related projects would cost an estimated 150 billion rubles and take 5 to 6 years to implement.

Ministries Abolishment Confirmed

LD0511215391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpts] USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev received in the Kremlin today Donald Atwood, U.S. deputy secretary of defense, and managers of the largest American companies and corporations involved in the defense industry. [passage omitted]

A joint Soviet-U.S. news conference was held after the meeting. Speaking there, Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the USSR Scientific and Industrial Union, confirmed the decision to abolish specialized defense ministries. This decision was adopted at the sitting of the State Council yesterday, he pointed out. The leadership of the

all-union scientific and industrial complex is also being abolished. Its functions will gradually pass to the republics, Volskiy said. At the same time, he did not rule out the possibility that some kind of consultative scientific group, which could bring together producers and consumers, might be formed in the Interrepublican Economic Committee, the structure of which will be approved on 14 November.

Plan To Exchange Art for Food Revealed

LD0511131191 Moscow TASS in English 1246 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Yuriy Kirilchenko]

[Text] New York November 5 TASS—As the Soviet Union is falling further down into an economic and political abyss, its leaders are trying to soften the blow by buying Western food and grain to feed the people in exchange for natural resources and cultural treasures.

The TASS bureau in New York City has obtained a document telling about a future secret barter deal between the U.S. Farm Bureau and Russia.

The document dated of October 29, 1991 is part of business correspondence, but no names are given.

Under an agreement, the Farm Bureau, acting in the interests of several U.S. agro-industrial corporations, including the John Deere company, will supply the Soviet Union with grain and tractors in exchange for Matisse and Picasso paintings and other treasures from Sovict museums. Each of these pieces of art may cost over 10 million U.S. dollars.

The document says Sharon Carroll, an art trade specialist from Chicago, is also involved in the deal. TASS bureau's attempts to contact her by phone have been unsuccessful.

The U.S. Farm Bureau suggested TASS talk to its representative Paul Dreyzek managing the bureau's international relations. But he refused to talk, saying he is busy.

The document said it will be the largest deal the world has ever seen and may cause a huge uproar in the Soviet Union.

"It is confidential. Art people are not aware of it. When they find out they go wild. The focus is to keep it secret," the document said.

Culture Officials Deny Deal

LD0511180191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1716 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 5 Nov (TASS)—Two leaders of the USSR Ministry of Culture have denied the possibility of the sale of works of art from Soviet museums as payment for American grain.

"Never and under no circumstances will we agree to such a thing," Yuriy Fokht-Babushkin, first deputy minister of culture told the TASS correspondent today.

An inquiry was made to the ministry in connection with the fact that the TASS department in New York obtained a confidential memorandum dated 29 October, from which it emerges that American companies are proposing a barter deal: grain and tractors in exchange for the works of Matisse, Picasso, and other works of art in Soviet museums.

According to TASS information, the U.S. Federal Farm Board and the John Deere Company play a considerable role in this operation. The identity of their partner in the USSR is not clear from the memorandum.

Yuriy Fokht-Babushkin excluded the possibility of connecting any kind of shadow structures to such an operation, stressing that they do not have official access to the depositories. He also reported that while on visits abroad, "similar proposals were made to our representative, who uncompromisingly rejected them."

In turn, Yuriy Khilchevskiy, deputy minister of culture, who is responsible for international cultural ties, conjectured that by such a method, "someone is trying to sound out the possibility of getting hold of works of art" from USSR museums.

Kerr Receives Security, Intelligence Group

PM0611101591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Nov 91 Union Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Special Services of All Countries, Unite!"]

[Text] A delegation of representatives of the Soviet security and intelligence services headed by F. Myasnikov, USSR KGB deputy chairman, had a meeting in Washington 26 October through 2 November, we were told at the USSR KGB Public Relations Center.

The Soviet representatives met with Richard Kerr, acting director of U.S. central intelligence, and with senior officials of the FBI. Spheres of future cooperation between the U.S. and Soviet special services, such as combating drugs, terrorism, and organized crime, and control over the spread of weapons of mass destruction, were outlined during the meeting.

There was an exchange of opinions on the possibilities for improving the general atmosphere of relations between the two countries' special services.

Both sides regard as successful the visit by the delegation of Soviet security and intelligence services. The talks that took place might initiate new relations between the special services.

Commentary Notes Increased SDI Funding

LD0511135691 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0000 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov]

[Text] In a compromise move, the United States Congress has agreed to the appropriation of more than $4.1 billion for this year's SDI research, which is less than the White House hoped for but more than $1.5 billion up on last year's spending. Given the general trend for cutbacks in defense spending and other projects, the question arises as to why the Congress was so generous in this case. Comment is by Vladislav Kozyakov and this is what he writes:

There are several reasons lying behind the congressional move. To begin with, the SDI program, which was conceived under President Reagan, has undergone substantial change since then. Its previous aim of protecting the whole of America, experts say, proved unrealistic. As it is now the program is designed to provide defenses against a limited number of missiles launched inadvertently or by some extremist groups from Third World countries. Congressmen appear to prefer such a curtailed version because it will place [as heard] the need for smaller, if any, changes in the 1972 ABM Treaty.

Another reason swinging House support for the new version is a new dimension it has now assumed following an improved international environment. Unlike in the past, SDI is increasingly seen as an area of cooperation rather than military confrontation between the superpowers. Mr. Bush's proposal to Soviet officials for joint measures in the area of defenses from limited nuclear strikes also played its part. When the news about the statement came at the end of September, U.S. observers concluded at once that it would help the White House to wring out more money from Congress. When Moscow nodded approval, it became clear bilateral cooperation in defense matters was feasible. The Soviet Union had also agreed to discuss conventional antimissile defenses and the creation of a joint early warning system, both with land- and space-based elements.

Of overriding priority are the efforts taken by the superpowers and other states to reduce nuclear stockpiles and resolve international disputes peacefully. However, a number of countries seem to be working out of line with the international community. Experts say the list of countries trying to develop nuclear weapons of their own includes Iran, North Korea, South Africa, Libya, Algeria, Israel, Taiwan, Pakistan, and India although their governments deny such reports, including that of Iraq, which United Nations experts say was within months of creating its own atomic and hydrogen bombs. As many as 15 countries are already in possession of delivery vehicles and a number of others will follow in the next few years. Another danger is the possibility of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorist groups.

All this indicates the need for greater superpower cooperation in joint ABM defenses as well.

Northeast Asia

U.S.-ROK Maneuvers Said 'From the Past'

PM0511160791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Nov 91 First Edition p 3

[A. Golts "Military-Political Commentary": "Maneuvers From the Past"]

[Text] At first I thought there had been a malfunction in the TASS computer and a report from previous years was being carried on the wire. It said that representatives of the U.S. and South Korean Armed Forces had announced the holding of large-scale "Foal Eagle" military maneuvers. They are to be held 1-8 November and will involve a large proportion of the Republic of Korea's 600,000-strong Armed Forces and all 39,000 U.S. servicemen stationed in that country, plus between 1 and 2 million South Korean reservists. Some 2,000 U.S. soldiers and officers are to be brought over as reinforcements. The nuclear carrier Enterprise has also set off for the coast of the peninsula. It is reported that the maneuvers will rehearse guerrilla warfare tactics, actions in conditions of chemical weapons use, and so forth.

Can all this really be possible today, when many signs of an easing of the situation are in evidence on the Korean peninsula, too? Talks between the premiers of the North and the South have just ended. And they ended on what appeared to be an exceptionally favorable note. The sides not only expressed satisfaction at the talks but also signed a joint document confirming their intention to elaborate "an agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation, and exchange between North and South." At practically the same time Washington officially confirmed that it will withdraw all its nuclear weapons from South Korea next year. All the indications are that a plan for the phased reduction of the U.S. military contingent will also be implemented.

So what considerations guided those who decided to stage at this time a demonstrative show of muscle in the spirit of years gone by? According to the AP agency, these maneuvers are a form of pressure on Pyongyang. The DPRK has agreed to international inspection of certain facilities on its territory (where Western experts suspect work is being done on the development of nuclear weapons) conditional on a demand for analogous inspections at U.S. military bases.

I do not intend to discuss the justice or otherwise of this demand. But it is perfectly clear that certain circles in the South are anxious about what they would regard as an overly precipitate reduction in the U.S. military presence. Ingrained fear of the North persists here.

Washington also has reasons of its own. A report in the Seoul newspaper SEKYE ILBO that the withdrawal of

U.S. nuclear arms from South Korea could be effected under the cover of joint maneuvers of the very same kind to be held in Spring 1992. Whereas this time what is being staged is a rehearsal. Either way, the maneuvers currently being held in no way strengthen security and confidence on the southern Korean peninsula.

Near East & South Asia

Israeli Envoy on Peace Efforts, Republic Ties

92UF0141A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 30 Oct 91 p 3

[Interview with Arye Levin, head of the diplomatic mission of the State of Israel in the USSR, by correspondent Aleksandr Oskin; place and date not given: "May the Winter Be Mild, and the Spring, Good"]

[Text] [Oskin] Mr. Levin, what does the Israeli side expect from the Madrid conference?

[Levin] We expect a very great deal from this conference, irrespective of whether our expectations are realistic or not. The main thing is that over the course of the next few days, there will be for the first time in our long and bloody history a peace conference with our Arab neighbors and, later, bilateral meetings with each Arab party. This will be for the first time since the armistice agreement was signed in 1949. This whole time, the Arab countries have not been prepared to continue the dialogue or agree to negotiations. For this reason there have, as you know, in the course of this period been wars between Israel and the Arab countries, which, of course, could not have solved all problems fully, but which led to new geographical realities compared with the situation on 29 November 1947, when Andrey Gromyko voted in the United Nations for the partition of Palestine...

[Oskin] How would you comment on certain disagreements in the government of Israel in connection with the Madrid conference?

[Levin] It needs to be borne in mind that the Madrid conference became possible largely thanks to the Israeli Government's peace initiative of 15 May 1989 concerning negotiations with Arab countries. We believe that the coming peace process pertaining to a settlement of the Near East situation is based largely on this initiative. What you termed disagreements, we do not consider such. There are also common views in the Israeli leadership on territorial problems, the more so in that they will not as yet be discussed in general.

[Oskin] How do you evaluate the USSR's role in a Near East settlement?

[Levin] We continue to treat the USSR, as always, despite the profound changes occurring in your country, with very great respect and with very great seriousness. We continue to consider the Soviet Union a superpower. We hope that at the conference in Madrid, the Soviet Union will perform a constructive role. It is very important and very heartening to us that the USSR is a cochairman of the conference in Madrid.... We are profoundly satisfied with the restoration of full diplomatic relations between our countries following a break of more than 24 years.

[Oskin] How are relations between Israel and other republics of the USSR taking shape?

[Levin] As far as the Baltic republics are concerned, we will in time, evidently, having recognized these states, establish diplomatic relations with them also. As far as the other republics, Russia included, are concerned, the question of diplomatic relations has not been discussed as yet... Our economic, cultural, and scientific relations are developing successfully with many regions of your country.

[Oskin] Mr. Levin, what is it like for you working in our country following the restoration of diplomatic relations and your appointment as ambassador?

[Levin] I am not yet the ambassador of the State of Israel in the full meaning of the word. In accordance with existing international procedure, we have still to obtain the consent to my appointment to this office of the Soviet side, and I then have to present my credentials... I am working as usual, as before, when I exercised the functions of consul general.

[Oskin] And the final question. What would you like to wish readers of RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA?

[Levin] In our country we are well acquainted with what RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA should represent and what worker interests it should defend, and I would like, therefore, to wish for all workers, who read your paper and who do not, but could, more success and happiness. We understand that you face certain difficulties. We wish, therefore, that you overcome them, that the winter be mild, and the spring, good, and that we all survive and live to see our common happiness.

Najibollah Pledges To Accept Free Elections

PM0511112191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Nov 91 p 4

[Interview with Afghan President Najibollah by PRAVDA correspondent V. Pritula and IAN correspondent A. Pravov under the "Interview for PRAVDA" rubric; date and place not given; first paragraph is correspondents' introduction: "Najibollah: Our Position Is To Bring Peace Closer"]

[Text] At a time when the whole world has recognized that the period of East-West cold war is definitively past, and when in the Persian Gulf the world's leading countries have demonstrated their readiness to jointly resolve complex military-political problems, the bloody civil war in Afghanistan is continuing. As before, instability persists in this lacerated and economically exhausted

country. In the run-up to the Moscow visit by a delegation from the so-called opposition provisional government, we decided to find out President Najibollah's view at this point in the Afghan conflict.

How would you formulate the Kabul government's main position, we immediately asked Najibollah.

[Najibulloh] I think this must have been clear to everyone long ago. Our position is to stop the war and establish lasting peace in the country.

[PRAVDA] But the opposing side maintains that peace will only come to Afghanistan when your government relinquishes power.

[Najibollah] It seems to me that the question of power, of transferring it or inheriting it, can only be decided by the will of the people. But this is not all, not by a long shot. Try to name me one force, party, or political figure among the opposition that knows how to wield power and take the burden of responsibility on itself. Neither you nor anyone else can name me a successor to the government. Here is a graphic example for you: In Konarha Province, where there are no government troops, the opposition has been unable to demonstrate its capacity for leadership. Having taken power into its own hands, the opposition went as far as to appoint several governors in the province at once, that is to say each group put forward its "own" man. And these various power centers, which are engaged in plundering public property, have gotten involved in bloody, internecine feuding. Economic installations, cultural institutions, schools, and hospitals have been destroyed. As a result of the bloody clashes between opposition groupings, the inhabitants of the province left their native villages; whereupon, the opposition began to kill and rob the population and force people to abandon their homes. Konarha has been completely emptied. Many women, fearing rape, have drowned themselves in rivers. In a word, life there has come to a standstill. This is an example of what might happen throughout the country if the opposition takes power.

[PRAVDA] So what path does your government propose?

[Najibollah] We have set this out on several occasions. Weapons should be laid aside, since for our part we are putting no obstacles in the way of a political solution to the Afghan problem. First of all, a full cease-fire by all sides is essential, and then a UN-monitored general election. Various mechanisms for this election are possible. It is important, as I have already said, to stop the shooting first of all; it is important to possess the will for peace, and the rest can be agreed.

[PRAVDA] Some opposition leaders continue to claim that they want nothing to do with your government since, according to their definitions, it is "Moscow's puppet."

[Najibollah] This is a definition from the past. And speculation on this claim is an unrealistic position. In February the year before last it might still have been applicable somehow. At that time the opposition was able to present itself as a patriotic force that for many years had opposed the foreign military presence, and it is obvious that at the time the opposition would have benefited by agreeing to hold an election. The opposition itself, however, began to spin out the peace settlement using every way that it could, and time passed. The Republic of Afghanistan Government has proved that its Armed Forces are capable of scoring major successes. They won the battle of Jalalabad, and they had the better of the clashes around Kabul and Gardeyz.

The leaders of the extremist opposition groupings located in Peshawar have no moral right to call us a puppet regime, because they themselves are in fact puppets in the hands of the Pakistani military. The latter want to resolve political and other questions within their own country by whipping up tension in ours. We, however, are acquiring a personality of our own. The Soviet troops have left, and we have stood our ground. Moscow is halting military aid, but we will be able to protect the interests of the state and its supporters. Moscow and Washington can help us by creating conditions for settling the situation. But the issue of power can only be resolved by the Afghan people.

[PRAVDA] What is your assessment of the international situation in the context of resolving the problems surrounding Afghanistan? Will it change for the better?

[Najibollah] There is no doubt that it will. First of all, a new situation arose in the world when Washington and Moscow began to agree with increasing frequency on the issues of looking for ways to resolve various regional conflicts. Afghanistan is no longer viewed by many people as a proving ground for Soviet-U.S. confrontation. Evidence of this is the joint Soviet-U.S. statement on Afghanistan. We welcome it, and we welcome the decision to halt all military supplies to our country.

We are also convinced that, if the United States brings a degree of pressure to bear on Pakistan, the situation as regards halting military supplies will be simpler. Given a display of goodwill by the other side and a genuine cessation of the war, we have always wanted to ship out of Afghanistan the arsenals of weapons and munitions that have accumulated here. We have declared a unilateral cease-fire on several occasions. It seems, however, that the opposition cannot hear us.

[PRAVDA] What about the mistakes of the late seventies and early eighties, which were the most serious for the party which you continue to lead?

[Najibollah] First of all, the current Fatherland Party has come a long way from the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. The congress changed the rules and program, bringing them closer to the people and their life. Our party is now a national consolidating force. The principal mistake, in my view, was that the people

cannot and should not automatically become what certain political leaders would like them to see them become. The people should remain true to themselves. Practice must draw on theory and theory on practice. Afghanistan is a Muslim country. Observance of the Islamic religion is the task of every Muslim. The Fatherland Party complies fully with Islam's ideals and with Afghan society's values. And it is convinced that it is entitled to count on a proper role and place in future political processes. In stating this, we exclude totally any attempts to monopolize power.

[PRAVDA] That it to say free elections must decide everything?

[Najibollah] Yes.

[PRAVDA] Among circles close to the Kabul government there is a prevailing opinion that the opposition leaders are afraid of these elections mainly because the mujahidin movement is currently fragmented and its detachments are engaged in internecine strife. Do you share this opinion?

[Najibollah] Yes, they are certainly experiencing particular difficulties. But you must agree that the world has changed considerably over the last few years. And there is no place in it for diktat or the imposition of regimes that suit external powers or a minority of the population. We intend neither to dictate nor to impose. The issue of the state setup, the future of the country, and its future government should be decided only on the basis of the people's free expression of will.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Foreign Ministry Statement on Botha Visit

LD0511171191 Moscow TASS in English 1605 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow November 5 TASS—In connection with the forthcoming visit to the USSR of South African Foreign Minister Roelof Frederik Botha, the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued today the following statement:

South African Foreign Minister Roelof Frederik Botha has expressed his wish to pay an unofficial visit to the Soviet Union during his tour abroad in November. The Soviet side has met the desire of the South African minister. The coming visit being of a private nature, a programme of Botha's meetings in Kiev, Saint Petersburg and Moscow, planned from November 6 to November 9, is worked out by the section of South Africa's interests, attached to the Austrian Embassy in Moscow.

It is meant that Roelof Frederik Botha will meet prominent state and political figures of the Soviet Union and sovereign republics, representatives of the Soviet public, business circles and mass media. He is supposed to meet foreign ministers in Moscow and Kiev for exchanging views on matters of mutual interest.

Further Details Given

LD0511230791 Moscow TASS in English 2104 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow November 5 TASS—The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the section of South Africa's interests, acting at the Austrian Embassy in Moscow, have issued today statements about a forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union of South African Foreign Minister Roelof Frederik Botha. Both statements point out that the visit will be of a private nature. At the same time, according to the programme, which is being worked out by the South Africa's interests section, Botha plans to meet prominent state and political figures of the USSR and sovereign republics, representatives of the public, business circles and mass media. Besides Moscow, Botha will visit Kiev and Saint-Petersburg.

The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs made it clear to a TASS correspondent that Botha's visit to the USSR cannot be held within the framework of an official visit, since the two countries have no formal diplomatic ties. They maintain contacts through interests sections of the USSR and South Africa, acting at the Austrian Embassies in Moscow and Pretoria.

A top official of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs told TASS that Botha's visit to the USSR should be examined within the framework of the process of improving relations between the USSR and South Africa as a country, which occupies a very important and at the same time specific position in the South African region and in the international arena as a whole.

First steps in establishing contacts between Moscow and Pretoria were made in the late eighties in the course of negotiations on Namibia's settlement and later in the joint commission on settlement in the south-west of Africa.

It is no mere chance that the contacts started to develop when the South African Government began to revise its domestic and foreign policy. It enabled the governments of the two countries to open interests sections. Soviet representatives seek to maintain contacts with all leading political forces of South Africa, including the government, African National Congress of South Africa and other organisations, in the interests of a political settlement in this country and transition to a non-racial, democratic society, the Soviet diplomat pointed out.

At the same time we should not forget that the South Africa's Constitution still contains clauses depriving the Black majority of South Africans of fundamental human rights and that the international community have not abolished its sanctions against Pretoria.

The Soviet diplomat expressed his hope that Botha's visit to the USSR will promote developing relations between the two countries.

Military Aid to Mengistu's Ethiopia Detailed

PM0511153991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Nov 91 First Edition p 2

[Report by TASS correspondent V. Kryukov: "How Much Military Aid to Ethiopia Was Worth"]

[Text] Addis Ababa, 1 Nov—The Ethiopian newspaper ADDIS ZEMEN has started publishing information about the military spending of the Mengistu Haile Mariam government, which was overthrown in May. The aim in writing the article is to let Ethiopians know on what the former leadership spent the country's resources.

The Soviet Union was, for many years, the main supplier of military hardware and equipment to Ethiopia, the newspaper notes. Weapons were supplied on credit. In the period July 1989 through May 1990, the former regime received from the USSR 4,500 napalm, vacuum, and other aerial bombs; 59,500 air-to-surface missiles; and 105,500 artillery shells and other munitions worth over 70 million birrs (around $35 million). This firepower was used in combat operations against insurgents in Eritrea, Tigre, Gonder, Gojam, Shewa, Welo, and Welega Provinces.

The question of payment for these loans was raised by the Soviet side during the later years of the Mengistu regime.

East Europe

No Economic Sanctions Planned Against SFRY

LD0511154191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1505 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, Nov 5 (TANJUG)—The Soviet Union will not introduce economic sanctions against Yugoslavia Soviet Foreign Ministry representative Andrey Gribkov, announced today.

Moscow will not take the economic sanctions that the European Community adopts against Yugoslavia, Gribkov specified, since Yugoslavia is not a member of the organization.

Gribkov, who heads the Yugoslav department in the Foreign Ministry, thus denied the information released by the agency "INTERFAX", which, citing high Foreign Ministry officials, indicated that the delivery of Soviet petroleum to Yugoslavia would be embargoed.

Andrey Gribkov concluded that the Soviet Union would take economic sanctions against Yugoslavia only in case such a decision was reached by the United Nations Security Council.

West Europe

Agreement on Draft Finnish Friendship Treaty

LD0511175391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1730 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Helsinki, 5 Nov (TASS)—The USSR and Finland have agreed in advance on a draft bilateral treaty of good-neighborliness and cooperation which will replace the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance that has been in force between the two countries since 1948.

The new treaty will very soon be submitted for initialling and, subequently, for signing by the two sides, it was declared today at a Helsinki news conference. The text of the draft treaty was agreed following consultations between representatives of the foreign policy departments of the USSR and Finland. The second round of these consultations ended today in the Finnish capital.

Commission Debates Withdrawal From Germany

PM0611105191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Oct 91 Second Edition p 3

[Report by correspondent Colonel V. Markushin: "Exchanging Arguments"]

[Text] The fourth session of the Soviet-German joint commission has been held in Berlin. It was chaired by Colonel General M. Burlakov, commander in chief of the Western Group of Forces, whose turn it was to preside. The commission noted that the Soviet troop withdrawal is proceeding in accordance with the timetable agreed by the two countries. This envisages that around 30 percent of the Western Group of Forces personnel and materiel will have been withdrawn by year's end. In 1992 it is planned to withdraw approximately another 30 percent of the original number of troops.

The Soviet side pointed to the unsatisfactory state of affairs regarding the sale of Western Group of Forces property and the construction of housing for withdrawn Soviet servicemen, which could have a negative impact on organizing a smooth withdrawal by Soviet troops.

The German representatives stated that the sale of Soviet real estate was based in principle on market relations and was, therefore, only possible if the Soviet side agreed to the prices offered under these conditions. The German side had so far carried out in full its obligations vis-a-vis housing construction. Moreover, in their opinion, there was no legal connection between the troop withdrawal and the implementation of the housing program.

Silayev Receives German Bank Delegation

OW0111141591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On November 1, chairman of the Inter-Republican Economic Committee, Ivan Silayev, received a delegation of the Deutsche Bank, led by speaker of the board, Hilmar Kopper.

Chairman of the USSR State Bank Viktor Graschenkov, who was present at the meeting, told IF [INTERFAX] that the German side had welcomed the agreement on the payment of the external debt by the USSR, reached during the recent talks between the heads of government of the 12 sovereign republics and representatives of the Group of Seven. Mr. Kopper expressed hope that the leaders of the republics were wise enough to strictly observe their commitments because failure to do so would at least lead to curtailment of economic cooperation with the West.

Mr. Kopper expressed concern about statements on the Soviet Union's future banking structures, expressed in the Russian Federation's parliament, and called for a carefully weighed-out approach to this question so that "the Western banking quarters would not get confronted with an unusual situation in the Soviet Union". They do not understand, said Mr. Kopper, that it is impossible to pursue an independent credit and monetary policy, given a uniform currency in the country.

Latin America & Caribbean

Talks on Departure From Cuba 'May' Begin Soon

OW0511193591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 5 Nov 91

["Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Mavorov and Tgor Porshev; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] DP [Diplomatic Panorama] learned that the Soviet-Cuban talks to have a Soviet training brigade withdrawn from Cuba may start as soon as the next weekend.

Neither the Defense nor the Foreign Affairs Ministry confirmed or denied the report. It was given to understand to DP that the Cubans viewed the talks as a "very touchy" issue and felt strongly about any reports about the matter.

Unofficially DP learned that the venue would be Havana and that a Soviet Foreign and Defense Ministry delegation would fly to Cuba in the coming days.

The impression is that the negotiations will be bilateral and will cover only the Soviet military presence in Cuba. The US base at Guantanamo is unlikely to be discussed because Washington was highly critical of Havana's proposal that the issue be discussed and, in effect, refused to participate in the negotiations.

Supreme Soviet

Soviet of Union Debates Gorbachev Bank Appeal

LD0211200191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1833 GMT 30 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 30 Oct (TASS)—TASS parliamentary correspondents Nikolay Zheleznov and Ivan Novikov report from the Kremlin:

There was sharp discussion today as the Soviet of the Union debated the issue related to the recent appeal to parliament by the country's president: whether to agree to the USSR Gosbank providing the Union's Ministry of Finance with credits worth 30 billion rubles. The deputies argued for a long time over this complex situation although it is clear to everyone: a negative response could have the most serious social consequences for in such a case, millions of Soviet people might not receive their wages in the near future. Regardless of all the quarreling, common sense prevailed.

According to reports from Vladimir Rayevskiy, the USSR first deputy minister of finances and Viktor Gerashchenko, the chairman of USSR Gosbank, a resolution has been adopted on forming a special commission of the chamber which has been instructed to study the issue of the president's appeal and to present the Soviet of the Union with its conclusion within the week.

At the same time, during the exchange of views the deputies emphasized that the hands of the USSR Gosbank are in no way tied and they can adopt their own independent decision on the issue of credits—the law permits this.

Soviet of Union Appoints Committee Chairmen

PM0611120591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Nov 91 Single Edition p 2

[Report by M. Buzhkevich: "Gone on Vacation"]

[Text] The formation of the chamber's permanent commissions continued at yesterday's sitting of the Soviet of the Union. The deputies decided to promote them to the rank of committees, as has also been done, but back last week, by the upper chamber—the Soviet of Republics, which did not meet yesterday. One deputy, not without irony, called the renaming of the commissions as committees parliament's "supreme achievement" of the past 10 days.

The Soviet of the Union elected Deputy V. Voskoboynikov chairman of the Committee for Transport, Energy, Communications, Space, and Information, and Academician Yu. Ryzhkov chairman of the Committee for Science, Technologies, and Education. He is one of the few leaders of committees of the country's former Supreme Soviet to have retained his post in the new parliament.

The Soviet of the Union then approved the composition of a number of committees and announced an intermission in the chamber's sittings until 11 November. The Soviet of Republics will meet 12 November. In the next two days the deputies will work in the committees and then there will be a brief vacation.

Kazakh Writer To Chair Soviet of Republics

PM0411112591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Oct 91 Union Edition p 1

[Biographical Sketch: "Anuarbek Alimzhanov—Chairman of the Soviet of the Republics"]

[Text] Anuarbek Turlybekovich Alimzhanov was born in 1950 in Taldy-Kurgan Oblast, Kazakhstan. He graduated in journalism from the Kazakh State University in 1954. He has worked as LITERATURNAYA GAZETA and PRAVDA own correspondent for Central Asia and Kazakhstan. He has been chief editor at the "Kazakhfilm" Studio and chief editor for the newspaper KAZAK ADEBIYETI. In 1970 he was elected first secretary of the Kazakhstan Writer's Union Board. In the period from 1979 to 1983 he was secretary of the USSR Writer's Union. Until 29 October he was a member of the USSR Writer's Union Board and headed the Kazakh Agency for the Defense of Author's Rights and the Kazakh Committee for the Defense of Peace. He is a Kazakhstan Republic people's deputy and a member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republics. He was elected chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republics 29 October.

Political & Social

Criminal Proceedings Leveled Against Gorbachev

Controversy Over Baltics

PM0511212191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Nov 91 p 1

["Own Information" report under the rubric "Sensation": "Criminal Proceedings Against USSR President"]

[Text] The editorial office has been informed that State Legal Counselor 2d Class Viktor Ilyukhin, chief of the USSR Prosecutor's Office to oversee the implementation of state security laws, having examined the documents connected with the recognition of Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian independence and with these republics' secession from the USSR, has instituted criminal proceedings against Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev under article 64 of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Criminal Code.

The following circumstances constituted the grounds for instituting criminal proceedings.

On 6 September 1991 the USSR State Council adopted resolutions on recognizing the independence of the Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian Republics. These acts

confirmed these republics' secession from the USSR and a significant alteration of the latter's territory. The decisions by the State Council, headed by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, patently contradict the existing law "On the Procedure for Resolving Questions Connected With a Union Republic's Secession From the USSR," adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet on 3 April 1990.

Moreover, when the State Council adopted the aforementioned decisions it was exceeding the powers granted to it by the Extraordinary Fifth Congress of USSR People's Deputies. The State Council is not a legislative (representative) organ of power of the USSR and it is not entitled to decide questions that are under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Soviet and Congress of USSR People's Deputies.

USSR President M.S. Gorbachev, head of the State Council, contrary to the demands of Article 127(3) of the USSR Constitution, which obliges him to act as guarantor of the observance of Soviet citizens' rights and freedoms and of the Constitution and laws of the USSR and to adopt the necessary measures to protect the USSR's sovereignty, failed to discharge his constitutional duties. By resolving the question of Lithuania's, Latvia's, and Estonia's secession from the USSR he was deliberately acting to the detriment of the sovereignty, territorial inviolability, state security, and defense capability of the USSR. In view of this, his actions can be interpreted as a crime, as envisaged by Article 64 of the RSFSR Criminal Code.

It is on this basis that criminal proceedings have been instituted. In accordance with Article 126 of the RSFSR Criminal Procedure Code, Viktor Ilyukhin has instructed investigators of the Interrepublican Security Service, headed by Vadim Bakatin, to carry out an investigation.

Charges Dropped

LD0511225791 Moscow TASS in English 2037 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow November 5 TASS—USSR Procurator-General Nikolay Trubin has repealed as illegitimate the resolution, signed by his subordinate Viktor Ilyukhin, chief of the directorate supervising compliance with laws on state security.

The resolution sanctioned the institution of criminal proceedings against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Trubin told TASS that the decision to institute proceedings had been prompted by the fact of the USSR State Council's recognition of independence of the Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian Republics. This was seen as an act with elements of high treason on the part of the Soviet president.

The resolution is "a legally invalid manifestation of political extremism", Trubin stressed.

Firstly, the decision to recognise independence of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania was not a one-man decision by the president. It was adopted by the USSR State Council on September 6, 1991, and does not contravene Article 3 of the law of the USSR "On Bodies of State Authority and Government of the USSR for the Transitional Period", passed by the Congress of Soviet People's Deputies on September 5, 1991.

In addition, under no circumstances can this decision be viewed as containing any of the six components of high treason as stipulated by Article 64 of the criminal code of the Russian Federation. On the strength of this, Trubin repealed Ilyukhin's resolution on the basis of Article 116 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

Trubin stressed that in keeping with Article 127-8 of the Constitution of the USSR, the text of the law of the USSR of March 14, 1990 grants the president of the USSR the right to immunity.

Trubin added that Ilyukhin's resolution had come as a total surprise to himself.

Moldova, Ukraine Sign Economic Community Treaty

LD0611162891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1459 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 6 Nov (TASS)—Valeriy Muravskiy, prime minister of Moldova, and Vitold Fokin, prime minister of the Ukraine, signed the Treaty on Economic Community in the Kremlin today. Thus, another two sovereign republics joined the eight which signed the treaty on 18 October.

USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev; Ivan Silayev, head of the Committee for the Operational Management of the National Economy; Leonid Kravchuk, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine; and Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, were present at the signing ceremony.

Wrap-Up of State Council Session Results

PM0511212391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Nov 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report by G. Alimov: "What Happens If the People Get Tired, Not the Guard? State Council Takes Time-Out Until 12 November. This Time It Has Been Decided To Meet in Alma-Ata"]

[Text] The USSR Foreign Ministry remains, but it is to undergo major reform and be cut by at least one-third. The USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs remains. The USSR Defense Ministry also remains, and the single army also. These are the main results of the 4 November USSR State Council session in the Kremlin.

You might say that this was a unanimous decision by all 10 republics that participated in the session. But you have to voice a reservation on one point: As far as the single army is concerned, the Ukraine's position is still not very clear. Vitold Fokin, the republic's prime minister, said that he personally is in favor of a single army, "but he is not head of state."

The future of the USSR Prosecutor's Office and the Supreme Court will depend, in all likelihood, on the situation as regards the signing of the new Union treaty. If the treaty provides for such structures, then, naturally, they will be retained in a modified form.

All these questions were examined by the State Council members in the strictest secrecy. The discussion lasted five and one-half hours. One can say with a degree of confidence that they were all discussed in direct connection with the Union treaty. The need for the treaty is increasingly keenly felt among the sovereign states. Indeed, many purely economic questions are now increasingly often encountering political barriers. In conversation with me during a break President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan frankly stated: "Let us create a union, a state, whether it be five or four republics. Let it be a kind of confederation, but still one country. We cannot live in constant suspense."

Everyone is waiting for a glimmer of light amid the gloom that shrouds the former USSR. There has been no tangible reform movement as yet even within the framework of the "eight" who signed the Treaty on an Economic Community; there have been no coordinated actions among them, whereas the overt and covert political games continue. The current flow, or, rather, sluggish flow of events the country is experiencing at the moment will stay as it is unless they are overcome.

The State Council session—despite the fact that all the participants appeared to be agreed in the main—showed that there is, alas, a vast distance between decisions and their implementation. Some sovereign states are demonstrating their independence in a rather odd way—by "delaying tactics." What is happening? They agree on certain fundamental matters in principle, then things mark time and get bogged down in details. The Treaty on an Economic Community is a splendid example. The signing of it on 18 October was like a breath of fresh air for society. Nearly two weeks have passed, but the package of agreements accompanying the treaty has not been adopted.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, who spoke on this very matter, said: "Sometimes you get the impression that the representatives of some republics, even at expert level, are not very serious." A number of republics participating in the economic community did not even send experts, while other state representatives are making political demands. In G. Yavlinskiy's opinion, "these are totally artificial matters." "All this is creating uncertainty," he added.

A responsible policy entails something else, I believe. It would be frivolous to say that the top leaders of the sovereign states did not know what they were signing when they signed the treaty. The basic principles were agreed, and, of course, they cannot change three times a day. A situation cannot last for long where people say yes and then do nothing. Delaying tactics cover no one with glory. It is immoral to play political games when millions are reduced to poverty. They are tired of political declarations.

The impatience of Boris Yeltsin, who recently put forward an initiative for a radical program to accelerate the reforms, therefore becomes more understandable. It was like an appeal to the republics. You can also understand the bewilderment of Nursultan Nazarbayev, who truly cannot understand how come documents can be signed and then there is a pretense that this or that republic does not owe anyone anything.

We already know what happens when the guard gets tired, but do we know what will happen when the people get tired?

Meanwhile the State Council, which decided to abolish 36 all-Union ministries and 37 departments on 15 November, has not yet finally approved the structures and staffs of the Interstate Economic Committee. Its leaders have not even been appointed yet.

What will the Interstate Economic Committee look like? It will be the executive body of the council of heads of government of the economic community states. The committee's staff will not exceed 1,500. Initially it is planned to create five or six departments on various subjects. Ultimately there will be perhaps 15-20 departments under the Interstate Economic Committee. The committee's working body will be the collegium. It will comprise representatives of the members of the community with the status of republic government deputy premier. The first department, dealing with economic and financial questions, will have around 500 people working in it; the other components will have staffs of no more than 50 people.

Whether this happens or not will be clear on 12 November. Some of the staff of the abolished ministries may find places in these new structures, and also in republic ones. There was a total of around 36,000 apparatus personnel working in Union ministries. And they are all out of work, of course, with the elimination of the ministries.

Such defense complex monstrosities as the Ministry of the Aviation Industry, Ministry of the Electronics Industry, and Ministry of the Shipbuilding Industry will cease to exist 15 November, the Military-Industrial Complex Commission is being abolished, and the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture, the

State Committee for Science and Technology, and a number of other small and medium-sized departments are being eliminated.

As we have reported already, it was recommended that the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Atomic Power and Industry, and the Ministry of Power and Electrification be retained as interstate bodies. It was decided to keep the Ministry of Civil Aviation and some other departments, including the Ministry of the Maritime Fleet, for a strictly limited period of three to six months.

But the main problem now is that of overcoming the contradictions that are occurring between republics. Given the political will, the package of documents accompanying the Treaty on an Economic Community can be completed and signed in the very near future. In fact, 13 of the 26 agreements are ready, six are in the final stages and only three require a lot more work. As G. Yavlinskiy told journalists, all these documents could in principle be submitted for signing within a week.

But is the political will there? Will the states' leaders keep their word to the people?

Barannikov on Reform of Internal Affairs Bodies

LD0611161291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1457 GMT 6 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Nov (TASS)—The reform of Internal Affairs bodies will take place very rapidly and in a difficult operational situation, said USSR Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Barannikov at a briefing today.

The aim of the reform is to increase the independence and responsibility of the republican ministries of internal affairs. The USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs will retain such functions as coordinating the actions of republican ministries, analyzing the state of affairs, exchanging experiences, and providing methodological and other assistance.

Viktor Barannikov announced that the main forces of the Internal Troops which number 230,000 are being subordinated to the sovereign republics. In particular, military units and subunits guarding corrective labor institutions and escorting convicts are to be transferred to their jurisdiction, as are militia formations engaged in protecting public order.

Rapid action units, numbering over 70,000, and also units guarding the more important facilities, remain under the jurisdiction of the Union ministry. The rapid action units are to make up the interrepublican internal troops to be used to settle conflicts in "trouble spots." The matter of subordinating these troops to the USSR State Council is being examined.

An interrepublican Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs is being tasked with dealing with fundamental issues, Viktor Barannikov said in conclusion.

Structure, Name for Foreign Ministry Viewed

'External Relations' Ministry Set Up

PM0511214191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Nov 91 Union Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Ministry of External Relations Instead of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, But Single Foreign Policy Remains"]

[Text] A Ministry of External Relations is being set up to replace the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As well as foreign political relations, it will handle foreign economic relations—in view of the transition to market principles inside the country and in relations with other states.

The decision was reached by the participants of yesterday's State Council session, which ended at around 2300. The future of the USSR Defense Ministry and USSR Foreign Ministry was discussed at the State Council behind closed doors. One of the participants let it be known that the USSR Foreign Ministry was item five on the agenda, worded as follows: "On the principles of the future activities of the USSR Foreign Ministry and its radical reorganization." Proposals by USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, worded in the same way, had been submitted to the State Council in advance. Incidentally, these put forward the idea of renaming and transforming the ministry.

Boris Yeltsin, who was first to speak following Pankin's report at the State Council, said that the report had clarified many matters for him. The Russian president backed the creation of a Ministry of External Relaitons with the proposed functions. He announced that it was proposed to carry out a similar reorganization and merger of the two departments in Russia as well.

A week ago many of our diplomats were shocked by Yeltsin's proposal to reduce the USSR Foreign Ministry central apparatus by approximately 90 percent. This time, as can be seen, he did not press the point, although he regarded the reduction of approximately one-third mentioned by Pankin at the State Council as insufficient. "Somewhat more than 30 percent"—that was the Russian president's compromise wording, it is reported. He said that he assumes that the projected transformations will not be merely formal, that more rights should be transferred to the sovereign republics, that central organs should deal with general matters, and that the "snobbish" approach of Union diplomats in relations with republic foreign ministries will have to end.

Opening the discussion of the question of the Union Foreign Ministry, USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev reportedly stressed the need for a single foreign policy. We must be responsible for the Union's international commitments, for control over nuclear weapons situated on the territory of various republics. The Union must be represented in the UN Security Council. Gorbachev shared his impressions of his recent confidential conversations with Presidents Bush and Mitterrand and with

Spanish Premier Gonzalez. The gist of their approach is: You straighten out your own internal affairs, but you must present a single foreign policy to the outside world.

The creation of the Ministry of External Relations means that the Soviet trade missions that used to exist abroad will be abolished and replaced by trade and economic departments in embassies, handling affairs on behalf of the Union of Sovereign States which is being created and of its individual members. As well as substantial cuts in the central apparatus of the transformed Foreign Ministry, there will be significant cuts in embassy staffs too.

Boris Pankin will submit more detailed proposals on the functions and structure of the Ministry of External Relations by the next session of the State Council, planned for 12 November.

It is believed that yesterday's discussion will give a qualitative boost to strengthening coordination between the diplomatic departments of the Union and the sovereign republics. The role of the body which is still called the Council of Foreign Ministers is to be intensified.

Pankin To Submit Blueprint

OW0511184891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 5 Nov 91

["Diplomatic Panorama" feature by correspondents Mikhail Mavorov and Tgor Porshev; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin told DP [Diplomatic Panorama] that the Monday [4 November] session of the USSR State Council accepted his ministry restructuring programme and agreed to make the ministry responsible for foreign economic issues as well. The USSR trade representative offices will be abolished, to be replaced by trade and political departments at embassies, said he.

According to Mr. Pankin, he was charged with submitting a blueprint for the structure and functions of a Ministry for Foreign Ties at the next sitting of the State Council that will take place on November 14, not 12 as had been planned. The November 14 sitting will also cover the issue of the Union political treaty.

The minister said that the new structure will inherit all of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's functions. The new ministry will coordinate its activities with the foreign ministries of the sovereign ex-Soviet countries at the level of the Council of Republican Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

From now on, the republics will broaden their operation in the foreign arena, emphasized Mr. Pankin. He said, however, that all the republican presidents who attended the State Council sitting said that the republics were not for the time being moving to set up own representative offices and embassies.

According to the minister, the republics are interested in setting up republican departments or sections at Soviet embassies, if necessary. Each sovereign republic will choose the countries it is interested in having offices in. Mr. Pankin believes that Russia will have more sections than the other republics "by virtue of its geographic and economic parameters."

Asked about the scale of the forthcoming layoffs at the Union Foreign Ministry, Mr. Pankin said that "the functions of the new ministry, not the percentage (of the staff to be laid off) is what matters."

Pankin News Conference

LD0511195791 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Addressing a news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists today, USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Boris Pankin spoke about the reorganization of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

[Begin Pankin recording] The State Council has considered the issue of a radical reorganization of the activity of the diplomatic service, including a substantial reduction in the establishment of the central administrative apparatus of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its foreign establishments. The main emphasis made at the State Council session was on the need for a continuing strengthening of coordination, and the allocation of competencies between the ministries of foreign affairs of the USSR and the Union republics. A Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Union and Sovereign Republics is called on to deal with this issue.

At the same time it was acknowledged that it is necessary to concentrate in one state management body the conduct of a united foreign policy and foreign economic policy which is both jointly elaborated by the Union and the sovereign republics and is conducted by them on behalf of the Union, on behalf of the sovereign republics. And, in this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs itself will be called, as is in some other countries too—it was in France for some time—the Ministry of External Relations. [end recording]

Military Officer Against Plan

OW0511191191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 5 Nov 91

["Diplomatic Panorama" feature by correspondents Mikhail Mavorov and Tgor Porshev; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The military intelligence services are acting in the interests of national security, and anyone seeking to see their activities curbed must be aware of the consequences," said in an interview with DP [Diplomatic Panorama] a person who identified himself as a lieutenant-colonel and staffer of the GRU (Main Intelligence Directorate). He described as "cheap populism" the Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin's yesterday statement that Soviet embassies should have fewer military

intelligence men on their staffs. Mr. Pankin made the statement before the November 4 sitting of the State Council.

According to the GRU officer, it is surprising that the minister should make this statement just when "his own and the Soviet Foreign Ministry's destiny on the whole is uncertain." "Boris Pankin has probably forgotten that the presence of a military attache's staff in an embassy is common international practice," said the officer. "This will not be a step to which we could wait for a response from our Western partners "

The GRU officer believes that if the US proposals that naval- based tactical nuclear arms be remowed is implemented, the Soviet military intelligence establishment will face far more difficult tasks than today. "The U.S. will be apparently the winner as it will be able to keep an eye on the storage facilities keeping the Soviet tactical weapons reoved from the ships. They can make a conventional strike—and their conventional weapons have proved themselves in the recent Gulf war—at these storage places any moment from their bases," believes he.

Devoid of tactical naval-based nuclear capability, the USSR can only rely on its strategic arsenal to reach objectives on the U.S. territory, said he.

Mixed Plans, Reactions to Oct Anniversary

PM0611121191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Nov 91 p 2

[Feature comprising reports from Tashkent by A. Kaipbergenov, from Tula by N. Kireyev, from Ryazan by unidentified correspondent, and from St. Petersburg by V. Gerasimov; accompanied by stop press report from editorial office; first paragraph is editorial introduction: "October: Is There To Be A Holiday?"]

[Text] The coming anniversary of Great October is meeting with a mixed reaction in different regions of the country. As PRAVDA reported yesterday, the Moscow Government has decided that social organizations may hold demonstrations only outside the Sadovoye Koltso [inner Moscow beltway]. In some places festive events are banned altogether. But it is also noted that many hope that the 74th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution will be widely celebrated:

Tashkent—In Uzbekistan on 7 November there will be no demonstrations or other festive events dedicated to the anniversary of the October Revolution. The republic Supreme Soviet Presidium has declared 8 November a workday, with pay according to labor legislation or a compensatory day to be added to workers' leave, at the discretion of the collectives.

Tula—Will the 74th anniversary of the October Revolution be celebrated in Tula? At the City Soviet Executive Committee this question was answered as follows: Not one of the city's social organizations has submitted a request to hold a rally, demonstration, or other action according to the established procedure. This being the case, there will be no city solemnities to mark the current anniversary.

True, Tula war and labor veterans think otherwise. One of them called the correspondent's center and said: And why should we beg permission anyway? Surely the celebration of the anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution has not yet been abolished by the Constitution? So far it has not been actually officially dubbed the "October coup," and 7 November is still a red-letter day in the calendar. So we have a perfect right to go onto the streets and squares without the sanction of the authorities.

Ryazan—But in Ryazan the situation is different. There, activists from the "Communist Revival" movement discussed the "burning question" at a scheduled meeting, and decided to hold a solemn session, lay flowers at the Lenin monument, and to march through the city streets with placards and banners... They even hope to publish the first issue of the newspaper ISKRA [THE SPARK—title of paper originally published in emigration by Lenin] on 7 November. As we can see, the Ryazan "Bolsheviks" do not yet intend to go underground.

St. Petersburg—Grandiose festivities stage-managed by Mayor A. Sobchak to coincide with 7-8 November and allegedly dedicated to the day that the city's historical name is restored have been described as a useless and undistinguished contrivance by the newspaper VECHERNIY SANKT-PETERBURG [EVENING ST. PETERSBURG].

Whatever our attitude toward the October Revolution, its objective significance is difficult to overestimate, and the same goes for its colossal consequences. Irrespective of our attitude toward it, 7 November remains the date of a major event in 20th century history. There is no historical truth in the celebration of city names on 7 November. For what reason is this "truth" being made to clash with the return of a name? What, "aside from an additional sense of insult, can the 'defeated' Leningraders—the opponents of the former name—feel? The process of reinterpreting reality, painful enough as it already is, will have a slap in the face added for good measure... Surely the citizens of St. Petersburg cannot be 'bought' with festivities taking place—quite literally—on the bones of others? Never mind the citizens—the city itself will not endure this tastelessness and mockery of its history."

The mayor's decision on the festivities, which will cost approximately 3 million rubles, has had an extremely mixed reaction from the population. The majority are perplexed: Won't this be a feast in a time of plague? Moreover the administrative farce is taking on the extremely blatant appearance of pseudopluralism: city hall has not recommended that sociopolitical organizations hold any rallies or demonstration 7-8 November,

although requests to do so were made in good time. By no means all the petitioners intended to march across Palace Square.

"Let them go ahead and hold demonstrations and rallies, but on any other day or in any place other than where festival events are planned," A. Sobchak replies.

What places he has in mind, one can only guess. After all, according to the mayor's choreography, virtually all generally accessible squares suitable for the congregation of citizens will be dragged into the orbit of the grandiose festivities.

AT THE LAST MINUTE: 7-8 November will be non-workdays this year, but people will decide for themselves whether or not to celebrate the anniversary of the October Revolution. This information was obtained by a TASS correspondent at the Secretariat of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Democratic Reforms Movement Council Meets

LD0311105591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2020 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 2 Nov (TASS)—The political council of the Movement for Democratic Reforms held its session in the capital today. Significant attention was devoted to the issue of preparing and holding the movement's congress, which is to be convened in the middle of December. Problems in relations with youth organizations were discussed—in particular, plans to set up a youth faction in the movement.

Participants in the session adopted an appeal in connection with the course for implemention of fundamental reforms announced by President Boris Yeltsin, in which they supported the general direction of these measures. At the same time, the appeal says, it is completely clear that transformations of such kind will be inevitably linked to the fall in the standards of living of a significant part of the population, partial unemployment, and the growth of social tension.

Supporting fundamental reforms dictated by stern necessity, the document says, our movement will seek to influence all legislative and executive structures in order to alleviate the difficulties of the transitional period as much as possible and to provide social protection for the less well off strata of society.

Participants of the session called upon Russian citizens, all political parties, and public forces to take an active part in the implementation of reforms, to show political common sense and readiness to cooperate, and to do their utmost to ensure that tactical differencies do not obstruct the organization of a specific course.

Liberal Democratic Party Activities Viewed

Ethnic Concerns Addressed

LD0311090291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2135 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Video report by correspondent A. Goryachev from Liberal Democratic Party Conference held at Lenin state farm culture house near Moscow on 2 November, including recorded remarks by party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy; from the "Television News Service" program presented by Marina Nazarova]

[Text] [Goryachev] A conference of the Liberal Democratic Party began today at the culture house of the Lenin state farm just outside Moscow. A report was delivered by party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. He made accusations against both presidents—Gorbachev and Yeltsin—on the grounds that everything they do is anti-Russia and plays into the hands of the West and the Muslim world, and that the situation in our country has been planned by the KGB in collaboration with the CIA.

As always, Zhirinovskiy directed attention to ethnic problems, as well as giving advice in all directions for the presidents of the Union and of Russia. Here is some of it:

[Zhirinovskiy] I would advise Mikhail Sergeyevich to do less peacemaking between Arabs and Israelis in Madrid; peacemaking is needed among our peoples here. Do you understand? And Yeltsin does not need to be going off to Stepanakert to reconcile Azerbaijanis and Armenians. It is time somebody took the time to think about the Russians. Well, we in our party do think about the millions of people of Russia.

[Goryachev] Vladimir Volfovich himself sees the solution to the nationalities problem in restoring the Soviet Union within its state borders of 1977.

Now for the LDP leader's economic program. It is pretty simple—freeze wages and prices. You will remember that we heard about this back at the end of August. Incidentally, Vladimir Volfovich was speaking from a platform adorned with the modest slogan "Vladimir Zhirinovskiy—this is the president our long-suffering Russia needs."

Now for the serious business. We won a victory back in August. Democrats have been in power now for some months, yet there is nothing to show for it. We have a vacuum, no sign of change and no light at the end of the tunnel. Now any cry to hit out and destroy will be taken up by millions of voices, or might be. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is a storm warning for our democracy. There is not much time to go, and if by then the basic necessities of food and clothing are not to be found in the shops, people will go and vote for Zhirinovskiy—for him or for someone else similar who promises cheap vodka, goods in plenty, and an iron fist.

Zhirinovskiy Remarks on Goals

OW0411152591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1140 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Liberal Democratic Party of the Soviet Union concluded its national conference Sunday [3 November] evening. 350 delegates from 12 Soviet republics attended the conference. There were no delegates from Georgia, Armenia and Turkmenia. There were guests from Finland, Sweden and Madagascar.

The party's leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told those present that the party will open its congress on April 4, 1992, at the Palace of Congresses in the Kremlin.

Analysing the situation in the country, Zhirinovskiy said that the forces that came to power after the August coup are neo-Bolshevist, judging by their methods and actions. According to Zhirinovskiy, what is being carried out now is Gorbachev's scenario under which Yeltsin was induced to come out with a suicidal plan for radical reforms whose implementation will spark a social explosion as a result of which Yeltsin will have to leave the political scene. Subsequently, Zhirinovskiy said, Gorbachev will impose a state of emergency and his henchmen—ethnic separatists in the Baltic region, Moldova, Georgia and the Ukraine—will submit to his will at once. In this way Gorbachev will succeed in preserving his personal power for several more years by removing his main rival, Yeltsin.

The international part of this scenario provides for heightening the role played by America in Europe and for enabling the Muslim world to gain great benefits, said the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party.

Preparation of 200 Libel Suits

LD0311072291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 2 Nov 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's staff is preparing more than 200 suits to be presented in various courts against practically all the information media. The leader of the LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] seriously believes that all journalists have slandered and libeled him and his party by distorting his political platform, the only opposition force in the country.

CPSU Foreign Trade Relations, Policy Viewed

PM0511133191 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 31 Oct 91 pp 2-3

[Article by S. Sokolov: "Party Gold: Order Issued to It in the West. By Setting Up a Transnational Monopoly, the CPSU Safely Vanished Underground"]

[Text] From the memorandum "On Urgent Measures To Organize the Party's Commercial and Foreign Economic Activity" (23 August 1990):

"It seems that the measures listed below should be taken urgently to ensure conditions for developing the party's commercial and foreign economic activity at the level of its central organs:

"one Politburo member and Central Committee secretary, effectively invested with the powers of party treasurer, is to be entrusted with questions of the party's production-economics and financial-commercial activity, including foreign economic activity;

"proposals are to be prepared for the creation of some new 'interim' economic structures (funds, associations, etc.) which, while having minimal 'visible' ties to the CPSU Central Committee, could become centers for forming an 'invisible' party economy;

"a start is to be made without delay on the preparation of proposals for the use of anonymous forms disguising direct links with the CPSU in the development of the party's commercial and foreign economic activity. In particular, a study is to be made of the question of the possibilities of subscribing, through participation in capital, to already functioning joint ventures, international consortiums, etc.;

"a study is to be made of questions of setting up a bank controlled by the CPSU Central Committee with the right to conduct currency operations and of the party's participating, through its currency resources, in the capital of firms which operate on an international scale and are controlled by friendly economic organizations;

"consultations are to be held with the USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply on the question of utilizing for the party's foreign economic cooperation the Soviet property remaining after the Soviet troop withdrawal from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and the GDR;

"a consultative firm, not directly linked with the CPSU Central Committee apparatus, is to be set up with the status of a corporate body for the practical organization of international economic corporation and the rendering of intermediary services in the sphere of the foreign economic activity of various CPSU organizations and commercial firms of fraternal parties."

From the Editorial Office:

It is already more than a year since this memorandum, which is now kept in the CPSU Central Committee General Department, appeared. How much of what was conceived did the party's "treasurers" have time to carry out? We hope to learn this before long at the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet parliamentary hearings devoted to the CPSU's activity.

The editorial office thanks RSFSR People's Deputy Vladimir Varov, member of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Legislation Committee, and Russian Foreign Ministry staffers for these and other documents which have been provided.

Report on Payments to Friendly Firms

In accordance with USSR Council of Ministers Instruction PP-28612 of 11 July 1990, the USSR Vneshekonombank [Bank for Foreign Economic Activity] repaid defaulted debts to friendly firms. In August and September 1990 the USSR Vneshekonombank made the following payments to the following firms:

To Whom	Who Paid	Million Rubles
IT-Comercio (Portugal)	V/O [All-Union Association] "Raznoeksport"	4.4
Metalchim (Portugal)	V/O "Legpromeksport"	0.3
Numerica (Portugal)	V/O "Eksportles"	0.6
Globus (Austria)	V/O "Vneshtorgizdat"	0.8
LAND OG FOLK (Denmark)	" "	0.3
OPF [expansion unknown] (France)	" "	0.3
Plambeck (FRG)	" "	0.1
Total		6.8

Until 1985 we led a fine, blessed, and, there again, a replete life. All sorts of foreign goods figured. They gladdened the eye. And they even developed needless, harmful habits in the Soviet person. We were all wearing something Hungarian, German, or Vietnamese. Everything was ours and fraternal and, if not socialist, then from friendly developing countries. True, the somewhat third-rate nature of fraternal imports was embarrassing. Embarrassing but not a burden. It stood to reason, as it were, that it is always cheaper and more advantageous and reliable to trade with comrades in spirit and in party.

This was why, when the red-carnation revolution triumphed in Portugal in 1974 after the "left-wing" military coup, the Soviet person became an involuntary admirer of everything Portuguese: Housewives mixed nothing but Portuguese tomato paste into their borscht, and alcoholics drank port wine with canned sardines. We liked this kind of thing.

And then a few days ago, as a result of certain operational investigatory measures, as investigators vaguely like to put it, a package of secret CPSU Central Committee documents arrived in the editorial office. They graphically explain why for years our stores were stocked with mediocre wine and substandard canned goods. Why, unlike the Arab emirates, we received all sorts of trash at inflated prices in exchange for oil and other first-class raw materials. Why, to go along with the Comintern idea of building Communism throughout the world, normal trade relations throughout our country were replaced by "fraternal assistance." Specifically, analytical notes, reports, and other documents compiled by CPSU Central Committee staff and invariably stamped "secret" show how much assistance to one of the largest parties—the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP]—cost the country. Having illumined the progressive experience of cooperation with the PCP, we can imagine the purposes for which the CPSU also made friends with other foreign comrades.

By describing the secret documents I am, at the same time, giving friendly assistance to V. Mishin, first deputy administrator of the CPSU Central Committee, I am explaining to him what was done in the business entrusted to him. The thing was that Viktor Maksimovich boldly declared in a September interview for our newspaper that reports that the CPSU fattened up fraternal parties abroad are quite groundless. The word "fattened up" really is quite groundless, and the verb "fed" is more appropriate here.

"Although My Friends Do Not Have To Wear Plastic Raincoats, They Do Not Steal From the Family"

I will not be wrong if I say that practically every meeting of representatives of the fraternal parties consisted of two parts: an open part on Soviet-Portuguese relations and a closed part on daily bread for the PCP. So most analytical notes made by CPSU Central Committee staff dealing with Portugal ended with this conclusion: "It would seem expedient, proceeding from the need to preserve in Europe such a large and cohesive party as the PCP, to study the question of expanding assistance for the PCP..." At the same time another note compiled in 1985 no longer conceals the true reasons for financing the Portuguese Communists: "...In the present situation the further strengthening of the PCP's positions would mean the simultaneous expansion, thanks to assistance from the Communist Party, of our political and other influence in such a strategically important country as Portugal." Everything was done to dissuade Portugal from joining the "Common Market."

And the more the situation of firms belonging to the PCP improved, the more readily the Portuguese Communists helped us in this. The firms were guaranteed carte blanche here because, according to a CPSU Central Committee resolution of 3 January 1984, all Soviet foreign trade organizations were instructed to give preference to "friendly firms" when concluding contracts with Portuguese firms. In other words, the majority of the goods which the USSR imported from Portugal (mainly tomato paste, wine, canned fish, cork, footwear, and clothing) were purchased by us from PCP firms. As the secret report "On Trade Relations Between the USSR and Portugal" testifies: "In 1978 friendly firms accounted for approximately 18 percent of all commodity turnover with Portugal, including 48 percent of all our purchases." And in 1984 Portuguese Communists operating in the Portuguese and Spanish markets acted as intermediaries for more than 80 percent of all Soviet purchases.

At the same time, however hard CPSU Central Committee experts tried, in all their reports they just could not gloss over the thought that, when it came right down to it, all these purchases not only brought the Soviet Union no advantage but were in fact unnecessary to it. In the pursuit of profit, however, the Portuguese Communists dreamed of swamping us by hook or by crook with their tomato paste. For example, the memorandum-instruction on questions of Soviet-Portuguese trade sent by PCP Political Commission Member C. Costa to Soviet Foreign Trade Minister N. Patolichev was perceived as something that stood to reason. Mendes Correia, spokesman for the PCP's firms and assistant secretary general, made constant charter trips to Moscow as a veritable supplier.

At times, nonetheless, a certain abnormality and mercantilism in the fraternal parties' friendship would come to light. This was the case in 1976, when, as follows from a CPSU Central Committee report of 24 October 1976, the Danish and Portuguese Communist Parties refused to share Soviet orders to build six ships of the "river-sea" type. In connection with requests from Comrade Jespersen the CPSU Central Committee transferred the order for two ships to Denmark and left Portugal with four. Now follow the tone of the official document: "This sorely displeased the Portuguese representatives at the talks, and Comrade Mendes Correia, assistant secretary general of the PCP, said that he would report this to the PCP leadership, while at the same time pointing out that the reduction in the number of ships on order on the eve of the PCP congress would inevitably harm the prestige of the Soviet Union and the PCP." In general, it was like this: Money today, communist ideas later.

So it is not surprising that the documents abound in phrases that are far from being the most diplomatic, such as "our Portuguese friends insistently request an increase in Soviet orders for..." You can understand the kind of orders in question even from the, at best, amicable comments of CPSU Central Committee experts:

"**Bottled wine.** Our friends have expressed a wish for the Soviet Union to buy 4 million rubles' [R] worth of bottled wine. The plan provides for purchases to the value of R2 million. Talks are currently being held. Considerable price differences have come to light."

"**Canned sardines.** The plan provides for purchases worth R2 million. Our friends' wish is for up to R4 million. The sides are starting talks. In a recently delivered consignment of canned goods quality inspectors discovered bacteria and a quality discrepancy. A check is being conducted."

"**On the purchase of containers.** Our friends have informed us that a new shop for the production of containers has been constructed at a machine-building enterprise where the PCP wields influence. However, it is standing virtually idle because of a lack of orders."

"**Rosin.** A proposal to the value of R3.8 million. The plan does not provide for purchases." (Incidentally, we later nonetheless did purchase rosin, despite the fact that the USSR itself produces it in sufficient quantities).

Our friends also asked for assistance in loading the capacities of the Portuguese division of the U.S. ITT firm by purchasing semiconductor devices, integrated circuits, telecommunications equipment...

"And My Heart Still Burns, Because Friendship Is Above All Else"

Like any other normal person, I was always somewhat perplexed at the regular TASS reports that a book containing the speeches of the latest CPSU Central Committee general secretary or an anthology of the selected works of Marx and Lenin had been published somewhere in the wild west with the speed of a best seller. The very mechanism for maintaining this love of the classics was curious... And then, at last, just two quotes from secret reports explained everything to me. Here is the first one: **"The CPSU has given and is giving material support to the PCP, notably with regard to publishing the newspaper AVANTE!."** And here is the second: "As of 1975, our Portuguese friends have regularly been given assistance by way of free deliveries of newsprint." Everything else was a technical matter. The firm of SDL is the main distributor of Soviet books in Portugal. True, the documents do not explain how it managed to sell out the books of Brezhnev, Chernenko, and Ponomarev in Lisbon.

"If a Friend Suddenly Turned Up..."

As the reports testify, they began training party cadres for the PCP in the Soviet Union even when that party was illegal. Party studies were subsequently streamlined. In 1981-1985 the CPSU Central Committee Social Sciences Institute trained 309 party workers, many of whom have now been elected to the PCP Central Committee. There was full ideological mutual understanding among party members, as distinct from economic understanding. Portuguese Communists uncomplainingly obeyed leading instructions from Moscow. Among the papers I discovered a surprising instruction for CPSU Central Committee staff who in turn drew up regular circular letters for the PCP leadership. This is it: "...Mindful of the fact that our information is brought to the notice of the entire PCP Central Committee..., texts must be edited in such a way that imperative forms of exposition are excluded." That is, it was proposed to disguise orders as friendly advice.

On the other hand, colleagues did not stand on ceremony with each other in confidential conversations. This is borne out, for example, by a record, carefully kept secret, of a conversation on 21 October 1984 between CPSU Central Committee Secretary B. Ponomarev and C. Costa, member of the PCP Central Committee Political Commission and Secretariat. I will cite just a brief dialogue from it:

"**C. Costa**: Am I to conclude from all that you have said, Comrade Ponomarev, that the restoration of relations between the PCP and the CPC is undesirable?

"**B.N. Ponomarev**: ...There should be no haste over this question...

"**C. Costa**: ...We will not take any steps in the direction of restoring relations with the CPC without consulting with the CPSU... If the CPSU expresses a negative opinion, we will not go to China."

Millions of rubles were spent for the sake of such leading minutes of triumph for the CPSU. And why should Comrade Costa not gratify his elder brother's pride if, as you recall, 80 percent of Soviet purchases in Portugal and Spain are made through the mediation of PCP firms and if he managed to secure the implementation of the CPSU Central Committee resolution on placing an order for 10 ships to be built in Portuguese shipyards during 1986-90?

However, as it follows from the reports, the Portuguese Communists earned their bread honestly. It is clear from Point 13 of the Central Committee report on work during 1981-1985 that "with the direct assistance of the CPSU and the participation of our representatives the PCP conducted a number of important measures in defense of peace in Portugal during the period under review." The PCP organized peace marches during 1982-1983. In August 1983, following top-level consultations with the CPSU, the Communist Party mounted purposeful work "to mobilize Portuguese public opinion to struggle for the Pyrenean peninsula to be declared a nuclear-free zone." The Conference of Representatives of the Portuguese and Spanish Peace-Loving Public was held under the secret leadership of the PCP and the CPSU. In general, as you see, the hand of Moscow was all around. It is fortunate that in this case (according to these documents) it was quite a peaceable hand.

"Let Us Sit Down, Friends, Before the Long Journey"

Naturally, some changes are now taking place within the PCP. Although, despite the general disintegration, it remains, as before, the most orthodox Communist Party, in which the slightest factional dissidence has been consistently suppressed. During the past three decades the PCP has consistently approved of Hungary 1956, Czechoslovakia 1968, and Tiananmen 1989. It is curious that right up until recently the CPSU Central Committee was evidently conducting on its Portuguese comrades a kind of experiment in the survivability of orthodox Marxism-Leninism under modern conditions. In any event, the CPSU leadership made no attempt in its instructional letters to direct its colleagues, who had lost their way in dogmatism, onto a more democratic path.

"There Were Comrades Everywhere, Friends Everywhere"

I will venture to remind you that until 1985 we not only regaled ourselves with substandard Portuguese sardines and drank port wine. There were also plenty of other similar goods. It was no coincidence that the historian Jean Elleinstein, a dissident from the French Communist Party, emphasized that Soviet foreign economic firms incomprehensibly contrived to conclude contracts with French firms for the delivery of "synthetic blouses which dissolve when washed for the first time." And it seems to me that it is not a matter of corruption alone here, because "friendly firms" played and still play not the least role in such "mutually advantageous trade." The example of the PCP demonstrates quite graphically that the lion's share of the USSR's foreign economic contacts were based on friendship with the commercial enterprises of fraternal parties.

As you understand, it is no longer a question of the party or of its ideology. The problem is one of monopoly, the shadow economy, and how deeply the structures of "invisible" party business have permeated our society.

CPSU Activities Possible Cause of Suicides

924B0056A Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Oct 91 p 4

[Report by S. Sokolov and S. Pluzhnikov, under the rubric "The Party's Gold": "Silence Is Death! One More Strange Suicide of a CPSU Central Committee Employee"]

[Text] Sadly, the chain of strangely similar suicides of the CPSU Central Committee's high-ranking employees continues.

As we have already reported, on 26 August, N.Ye. Kruchina, CPSU Central Committee's administrator of affairs, jumped off the balcony of his apartment. The Moscow Leninskiy Rayon Procuracy came to the conclusion that it was clearly a suicide.

On the morning of 6 October, N.Ye. Kruchina's predecessor at the post of CPSU Central Committee administrator of affairs, 81-year-old G.S. Pavlov jumped out of the window of his apartment. According to his wife, upon learning of Kruchina's death, Pavlov said: "Only a strong man could do this. I would not have done it, though."

The investigation on this case is almost completed. No sign of the victim having been pushed into suicide had been found.

And now other sad news. On 17 October, at 2130, D.A. Lisovolik, a 54-year-old employee of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, jumped off the balcony of his apartment on the 12th floor of a building on Lisa Chaikina Street. We were able to find out that Dmitriy Andreyevich was a teacher by education; for many years, he had been carrying out party work abroad; then, seven years ago, he was assigned to the CPSU Central Committee apparatus—first as a chief of the United States desk in the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, and then as a deputy to the

chief of the International Department Valentin Falin. Since September of this year, he was unemployed.

As we were told by Precinct No. 109 of the Moscow Militia, on the evening Lisovolik watched television together with his wife and son; after the program ended, he went out on the balcony to smoke. The wife heard the balcony door squeak and, as she entered the room, saw Dmitriy Andreyevich fall over the balcony railing. Thus, there could not be any violence involved.

According to testimony of close relatives and colleagues, upon discharge from his job Lisovolik became depressed, turned unsociable, and often said: "My life has been wasted." According to his wife, he had not received any threatening calls. Lately, he had been calling somewhere—he was trying to find a job but apparently was unsuccessful.

No suicide notes or documents were found during the search of the fall site and the room.

The investigation by the Procuracy staff, and in two instances the conclusions of court medical experts, remove any doubt that these CPSU Central Committee employees chose to leave life voluntarily, and prove that the decision was the result of their personal feelings. But persistent rumors remain that this chain of deaths is not accidental, and that it is related to the behind-the-scenes financial activities of the CPSU. It appears that the atmosphere of universal suspiciousness becomes so unbearable that it leads to tragic consequences. There is no such thing as collective fault, however. It is necessary to remove the burden of imaginary responsibility from the shoulders of many staff members of the CPSU central apparatus—the people who had been carrying out the will of true initiators of all kinds of economic and political machinations. This atmosphere can be cleared by the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Procuracy.

We know that as early as in the beginning of September a group of investigators there started looking into CPSU financial activities. To our request to describe at least the main tasks of this investigation, RSFSR Deputy Procurator General Ye. Lisov replied with polite refusal: "...We believe that an interview is premature." But, unfortunately, time is being lost, and it takes away human lives: witnesses? participants? innocents? One can hardly describe the work of the RSFSR Procuracy as speedy.

Although, yesterday RSFSR Procurator General Valentin Stepankov told us that all materials regarding violations in CPSU financial activities had been assigned into a separate case. Perhaps, now the investigation will move faster and without the unnecessary veil of secrecy.

The telephone number to contact journalists covering the topic "The Party's Gold" is 250-44-58 (1700 to 1900).

Update on 'Communist Initiative' Youth Movement

PM0111170991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Oct 91 p 2

[Article by Andrey Yezerskiy, secretary of the Zelenogradskiy Komsomol Rayon Committee, and Igor Malyarov, secretary of the Moscow "Communist Initiative" Youth Movement Committee: "Not So Fast With the Burial Party! Urges Organizing Committee 'For Revival of Komsomol'"]

[Text] They are hurriedly changing the name plates at the Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League]. At the extraordinary 22d congress held in late September in violation of the rules, Komsomol functionaries decided to disband the organization.

A wave of name changes spread through the republics. At the Russian conference on 19-20 October, 150 delegates, more than half of whom were Oblast Committee first secretaries, also changed their titles. Now they are first secretaries of Oblast Committees of the Russian Youth Union. They obviously wanted to repudiate the "Leninist communist" elements more quickly.

But what is to be done with those rank and file Komsomol members who specifically joined the Komsomol and who, furthermore, want to remain there even now? Last December they formed the "Communist Initiative" Youth Movement. The movement's supporters declared then: If the Komsomol leadership finally abandons the communist idea, the "Communist Initiative" Youth Movement will be the heir to the historic traditions, title, and symbols of the Komsomol. Now that moment has come. At the 22d congress the movement initiated the creation of the organizing committee "For the Revival of the Komsomol," which includes delegates from Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Russia, the Ukraine, and Kazakhstan, an event which also signifies the resumption of the Komsomol's activity.

The Russian conference was also forced to recognize the work of the organizing committee. At the demand of a group of delegates—supporters of the Komsomol revival—the leadership was instructed to help the movement of rank and file Komsomol members wishing to work specifically within the Komsomol, contrary to the hierarchy's will.

There will be a meeting of supporters of the revival of the Komsomol in the city on the Neva 7-8 November—we invite them to take part in our work.

The contact telephone numbers of the organizing committee "For the Revival of the Komsomol" in Moscow are: (095) 206-10-15, 535-74-58. In St. Petersburg the number is (812) 274-55-43.

Communists for Citizens' Rights Movement Formed

LD0511021191 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 2000 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The leaders of the recently announced Communists for Citizens' Rights [Russ Kommunisty za prava grazhdan] Movement have held a news conference in St. Petersburg. The Communists for Citizens' Rights Movement, for as long as the CPSU and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Communist Party are suspended, has taken it upon itself to uphold workers' rights, as Yevgeniy Krasnitskiy, member of the former CPSU's Central Committee and town soviet deputy, told TASS.

He proposed holding an open and public trial of the organizers of the August coup. Krasnitskiy believes it essential to call a congress of the republic's communists before the end of the year, to decide organizational and policy issues. The fate of the former CPSU should be decided by the party itself, affirms one of the city's most active Communists. Among the movement's leaders, most influential are technical university professor and USSR People's Deputy Denisov, and also Roy Medvedev and Nina Andreyeva.

Workers' Party Referendum Appeal Dismissed

PM0511123591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Nov 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by Valeriy Reshetnikov under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Marxists Told 'No'"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Court has dispelled the Marxist Workers' Party's final hopes of holding a USSR referendum.

The USSR Supreme Court has dismissed the appeal from the Marxist Workers' Party against the resolution of the USSR Central Referendum Commission. The commission refused to register the question which the party wanted to put to all citizens of the Soviet Union: "Do you believe that the choice of form of ownership at an enterprise should be made by the labor collective itself via a secret ballot of all its members?" The party thus evidently intended to oppose the transfer of state enterprises into private hands.

The refusal was motivated by the fact that under the law a political party cannot be the initiator of a referendum. The Marxists tried to appeal against this decision in the USSR Supreme Court, but met with no support.

Yuriy Redchenko, member of the USSR Supreme Court, told your IZVESTIYA correspondent that as things are it is not enough only to register a question. To have a real chance of putting it at a referendum it is essential to collect 2 million signatures.

Democratic Union Urges Provisional Government

OW0611010591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Democratic Union [DU] has called for the abolition of the post of USSR president, the immediate release of all political prisoners, the disbandment of the Soviet Army, and the dissolution of the military-industrial complex under international control. These demands are contained in a statement published on Tuesday [5 November] by the Press Service of the DU's Moscow chapter, led by Valeria Novodvorskaya.

Feeling that "there is no lawful government in Russia today," the Democratic Union urges the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] President and executive bodies "to declare themselves a provisional government until an all-Russia Constituent Assembly convenes on a multiparty basis."

Yazov Lawyers Interviewed on Coup Investigation

PM0511155891 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No. 42, 20-27 Oct 91 p 10

[Report on interview with Nikolay Pechenkin and Lev Abeldyayev, defense lawyers for former Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov, by Nataliya Gevorkyan; place and date not given; "'Der Spiegel': A Magic Mirror"]

[Text] Thanks to a story published in the German magazine, the lawyers of Emergency Committee members under investigation know at least as much as all other readers of "Der Spiegel".

Everyone, including the lawyers for the August putschists, now has a better idea of the course of the investigation of the coup attempt, thanks to the money paid out by Der Spiegel (expressed in a six-digit figure, according to an unconfirmed report).

Before the publication of the story, lawyer for Pavlov had no way of knowing Kryuchkov's responses to the investigator's questions, Kryuchkov's lawyer was in the dark about what Yazov said, and so on. In short, each lawyer involved knew only what his client had said to the investigator.

Will the lawyers have an access to all the materials pertaining to the investigation, after that information leak? I discussed the situation with Nikolay Pechenkin and Lev Abeldyayev, lawyers for Dmitriy Yazov.

"We had the right to know all that all along. The Russian Federation Law envisages that the counsel for the defence can have an access to all the materials pertaining to investigation of a criminal case right from the start. However, the paradoxical unwillingness of Russia's Procurator's Office to abide by the law has led to a crazy

situation in which the German magazine got access to the records of the questioning sessions before the counsels for the defence."

"I remember how the Procurator-General of the Russian Federation solemnly promised that the case would be investigated within a short time and in strict conformance with the law, including the law pertaining to the rights of the persons under arrest. It is clear now that 'short time' is going to be a bit long. What about the rest?"

"The Procurator-General also mentioned that all the arrested had been given well-qualified lawyers for defence. But that was untrue. We do not know about each situation, but Yazov had been given no lawyer at first, despite his numerous requests. As a result, he was questioned as a suspect in the absence of a lawyer on August 22. On August 30 he was officially charged with a crime and again questioned in the absence of the lawyer for his defence. He got one as late as September 3. That was a gross violation of the law, capable of making the accusation irrelevant. But the investigators seem to care little about this." *"Frankly speaking, the interest towards Yazov has abated since a rumour spread that he acknowledged his guilt."*

"Since someone with a 50-year-long immaculate record of service and quite a few war military decorations earned at the battle-front cannot be announced a career-seeker or a drunkard instantaneously, a rumour was launched that he had admitted his guilt. However the rumour did not specify what guilt. But it was widely known that all of the accused have been charged with high treason." *"Thanks to information in Der Spiegel, you know that Yazov didn't admit that accusation."*

"Following the failure of the rumour, the Procurator's Office once again infringed the accused person's right to defence. The deputy of the Ukraine's procurator-general, Valeriy Danilenko, came to the prison in order to question Yazov as a witness." *"Why so?"*

"Danilenko admitted that he was going to learn certain things the Ukraine's parliamentarians were eager to know, posing this private inquiry as an official questioning." *But a witness must answer questions, while an accused person can refuse to."*

"Precisely. We, Yazov's lawyers, prevented that questioning session. Incidentally, Danilenko's questions echoed the official accusation against Yazov from Russia's Procurator's Office. But Danilenko returned a week later, this time with an order for the questioning of Yazov as a witness, issued by Deputy Procurator-General of Russia Yevgeniy Lisov, who is also heading the team of investigators for the Emergency Committee case. The counsel for defence again refused, believing that even a deputy procurator-general can't be granted a legal right to infringe the rights of the accused person; Yazov's answers could harm him. Besides, we were worried that a deputy procurator-general of one independent state wanted to carry out an illegal investigation on the territory of another independent state without following due procedure." *"Did Russia's prosecutors worry about that too?"*

"Judging from the way Danilenko acted—very confidently—they didn't. He threatened the lawyers with burrs in their work, and promised to have Yazov sent to the Ukraine and questioned there." *"I noticed that lawyers involved in the investigation of the case actively seek the support of the public, whose opinion they try to sway."*

"We have no choice when we see misinformation spread and attempts to bias public opinion against us when it is already fairly negative towards the accused. Do you believe that Russia's Procurator's Office will not violate the accused persons' right to defence when the office itself conducts the investigation, controls its course, and claims that it does the same work as the Russian Federation Supreme Court? The Court officials were somehow not offended by that and didn't protest. What if that very Court will be the one that hears the case?" *Noteworthy, the leak of information to Der Spiegel is being investigated by a department of Russia's Procurator's Office. Why is the leak being investigated as an offence rather than as a crime?* Here's another interesting fact cited by Yazov's lawyers: Yazov's picture in Der Spiegel taken from the video recording and reprinted by KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries a date and time of August 22, 08:21. But lawyers are not aware of any questioning session of Yazov on that day.

Threat of 'Political Revenge' Viewed

924B0071A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 30 Oct 91 p 2

[Article by Valeriy Kachurin: "What Was Yegor Ligachev Doing in the Days of the Putsch?"]

[Text] **The former Politburo member countered, responding to fantasies about his being privy to the affairs of the GKChP, State Committee for the State of Emergency: "I was writing my memoirs, 'The Gorbachev Enigma.'"**

Are other "suspects" in the CPSU case prepared to cite their alibis at legislative hearings in the Supreme Soviet of Russia?

So, the figure of Yegor Kuzmich Ligachev has reappeared in the political arena. His name came up during legislative hearings in the Supreme Soviet of Russia on the role of the Communist Party in the coup d'etat. As I was told by A. Surkov, chairman of the legislative commission for investigating the causes of the coup, it turns out that, according to data received from Tomsk, information is available that in the event the coup succeeded, Yegor Kuzmich could have taken the post of the CPSU general secretary. However, he himself categorically denies his involvement with the conspirators in any way. Why did the legislative commission need to bring back into the political spotlight this respectable

retiree who has dedicated the remainder of his days and his Bolshevik convictions to writing memoirs? In general, why is the party topic being aired in the rooms of the "White House?"

The point is that it is premature to celebrate victory over reactionaries. Our woes did not end when the August putsch ended: Political revenge is a real threat. According to the data of an analysis carried out in the Control Directorate of the Office of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] president, in the course of the August events more than 70 percent of the oblasts, krays, autonomous republics, and okrugs actually failed to support the leadership of Russia, coming out in an overt or hidden form in favor of the GKChP and taking either a wait-and-see or ambiguous position.

The reaction of party organs turned out to be quite characteristic from this point of view: There was not a single undertaking in favor of the leadership of Russia. One-third of the party committees took a wait-and-see position, and the remainder supported the GKChP. The Russian leadership believes that the threat of political revenge on the part of the former CPSU party apparatus is exacerbated by the transfers of the cadres of party functionaries to leading positions in local soviets and their executive organs of power which were performed ahead of time. These transfers transcend by far "the diffusion of partocracy" which was common in previous years and was implemented under the slogan of "reinforcing the influence of the party." Democratic forces in the oblast soviets of people's deputies actually are in a minority. The share of former party functionaries who have transferred to positions in the executive organs of power of the local soviets comes to between 80 and 90 percent in Russia as a whole.

It is now clear where the threat of political revenge originates, at any rate, during the forthcoming election of the heads of local administrations, and why the deputies are keen on the party topic. There is concern and alarm over this, but they are desperately short on information. They say that there is not enough compromising evidence; the far-sighted party apparatchiks managed to cover up and, in some cases, destroy the traces of their complicity in the coup, despite the fact that party archives and buildings were suddenly sealed. It is no accident that A. Surkov proposed to approach M.S. Gorbachev and demand all materials from him in order to indeed come up with an objective assessment of the actions of the CPSU. At issue are special Politburo files which the provident V. Boldin allegedly took care to quickly remove and transfer to the archive of the USSR president, due to which, access to them is now closed. However, it came out that this information also is, to put it mildly, a figment of imagination. Since the USSR president dared to testify in the coup case, was it all that difficult for him to open his archives?

Indeed, many unexpected denunciations and secret encrypted messages, guesses and suppositions concerning the complicity of the party in the coup were heard on the premises of the "White House." However, it was clear that deputies at their hearings may suppose whereas, after all, it is up to the court to decide. It possesses a system of evidence based on which it may determine both the subsequent fate of the CPSU and the extent of personal responsibility of its leaders. Only the court may decide whether this party is to be or not to be.

This is why I was put on my guard by the oversensitive—I am at a loss for another word—reaction of some members of the legislature to this topic of the Party which appeared well forgotten in our bedlam.

A former citizen of Leningrad was outraged: "Why was our region not mentioned? After all, in our city, Gidaspov supported the GKChP and imposed a curfew..."

RSFSR General Prosecutor V. Stepankov had to explain that 36 criminal proceedings of this nature have been initiated throughout the country (out of these, two concern Leningrad, that is St. Petersburg). Are we going to hear them all? If political denunciations and a "witch hunt" are at issue, I would add, let us recall statistics given by Chief of the Control Directorate of the Office of the RSFSR President V.A. Makharadze concerning former party apparatchiks currently working in the system of executive power. What if they are removed overnight and held accountable enmasse?

Here is another question—concerning a string of "nomenklatura" suicides which occurred in Moscow after the putsch. This would appear to be a delicate topic. In a human way, we can understand people who are left out in the cold: Their ideals crumble, and the very notion of the sense of life in general, and their own life in particular, changes. Conscience itself pronounces a sentence on the person. However, a deputy touching on this drama queried indifferently: What are the law enforcement organs doing in order to avert actions whereby "the main witnesses get away?"

There were digressions about history which were full of pathos: Supposedly, trampling on the rule of law and achieving their objectives at any cost, up to a coup d'etat, have been the essence of the Bolsheviks since 1917; there were angry appeals to start a new Nuremburg trial of Communist ideology. The topic of atoning and coming to the prosecutor's office to do penance was aired. Even the following condition was proposed: to ensure that the lives of witnesses will be spared if they testify...

As I left the auditorium, I thought: "Here we are, the talking has gone that far!" A crowd buzzed in front of the "White House," and tanks were parked: They were shooting the motion picture "Three Days." The posters "Down With the CPSU!" and "Hold the CPSU Accountable!" hung on the walls of the building. Everything was as it is in the movies. Only there, within the walls of the legislature, remained people who, to my mind, still have not understood this as they brought back from oblivion the figure of a convinced Bolshevik. To be sure, it is

easier to combat him than the actual problems of our life. However, there is a danger of straining; after all, we are not cart-horses.

Silayev Urges Azerbaijan To Supply Armenia Gas

LD0611114491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] According to the news service of the Interstate Economic Committee, Silayev, head of the Committee for the Operational Management of the Economy of the USSR, has sent Azerbaijaini Prime Minister Gasanov the following urgent telegram:

An urgent message from the Gazprom concern has been sent to the Committee for the Operational Management of the Economy about the halting of the supply of gas to Armenia through the Kazakh compressor station situated on the territory of Azerbaijan. Whatever the reasons for this, I request that you immediately take all of the necessary steps to ensure the resumption of the gas supply in accordance with quotas set by the committee. Halting the functioning of systems providing vital services and power during the winter period could cause unpredictable consequences for the economy, Silayev writes to the prime minister of Azerbaijan.

Government Handling of Economic Crisis Polled

PM0611112991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Nov 91 Single Edition p 3

[Report by V. Gerasimov, leader of a public opinion study group: "We Should Last a Day and Hold Out a Night"]

[Text] Emerging from the crisis which society is experiencing is incredibly difficult. We are having to tighten our belts more and more to stop the hunger pangs. The economic vice is squeezing us. How much more can we endure? Experts and specialists, politicians and futurologists are setting their deadlines. But the people have their own opinion. Thus, two out of 100 cited a term of a year and the same number reckoned we need 500 days. The others indicated a longer period. For 13 percent of those polled it is three years, for 1 percent four years, and for 6 percent five years. But to the majority all these periods seem too short. In this connection 23 percent believe that one five-year period will not be enough.

At the same time the largest number of citizens who sent in replies displayed a certain pessimism. One out of every two voiced the opinion that the present government cannot improve the situation. The most skeptical are people aged 21-30 and 41-50. Among them 68 and 63 percent respectively have lost faith in the government. The poll showed that individual farmers and lessees, joint venture workers and entrepreneurs have least hopes of the government and they are followed by students, engineering and technical workers, and all the others.

Inasmuch as the majority of those who took part in the poll did not express any special hope with regard to the present government, on whom do they pin their hopes? Perhaps on the West? Answers to the question: "How long will the Western countries be able to render large-scale humanitarian aid?" were as follows: Every fourth person estimates the time at a year, 17 percent at two years, 7 percent at three, 1 percent at four, and 5 percent at an indefinite period. Young people under the age of 20, students, and cooperative members have the greatest faith in the possibility of indefinite aid from the West while 42 percent reject this method as the main one in emerging from the crisis. However strange it may seem, workers in the services sphere (63 percent) voice the least hope for aid from the West. Among all social strata and groups of the population the absolute majority believes that a country like ours should not live on handouts. That is what is written by B. Shiknyayev (Penza Oblast), N. Ponomarenko (Kiev Oblast), V. Murentsov (Tselinograd Oblast), L. Akhmedzyanova (Bishkek City), M. Abdullayev (Dagestan Soviet Socialist Republic), V. Panfilov (Volgograd City), M. Bazykin (Kalininets settlement) and thousands of other people of various ages and professions. A considerable number of letter writers consider this approach to be extremely humiliating. Without relying on Western aid, the participants in the poll voice the opinion that no one can help us better than we can help ourselves. "We must cope ourselves," writes O. Kotova (Rostov-na-Donu). This viewpoint is shared by the authors of many thousands of replies sent to PRAVDA. In them hopes are linked with an increase in the population's labor activeness. In the opinion of the majority of those polled, for a way out of the crisis it is more sensible to mobilize internal reserves than to constantly ask for aid. In other words, put your hope in God, but get it right yourself.

In this connection the opinions on local measures for emerging from the situation which has taken shape are very interesting. On the question of what is necessary for society to emerge from the crisis, opinions were diametrically opposed. Some people see a panacea in intensifying activeness in the implementation of reforms (21 percent), others suggest stopping and putting our affairs in order (68 percent). Others suggest returning to former methods (7 percent). Among men there are slightly more supporters of reform than among women. But with regard to stabilization and the introduction of order in our affairs, the picture is just the opposite.

The supporters of the line toward active transformations include above all young people under 20 years old (33 percent), lessees and individual farmers (50 percent), and cooperative members (67 percent). People aged 21-30 and those over 60 support this viewpoint least of all (18 percent).

Kolkhoz members, agricultural specialists, members of joint ventures and entrepreneurs and state apparatus workers view the activation of reform coolly. Among them 8, 14, 13, and 18 percent respectively support reforms.

The majority of all strata and groups of the population (except for cooperative members, individual farmers, and lessees) expressed themselves in favor of putting our affairs in order and carrying out an inventory, so to speak, of what has been produced. The largest number of supporters of this path are among agricultural specialists (78 percent), workers in the services sphere, members of joint ventures, and entrepreneurs (75 percent), and doctors, servicemen, and pensioners (71 percent). Psychologically this is entirely understandable. The endless flow of reforms which fail to bring any marked improvements and which do not give confidence is worrying all strata of the population.

An analysis of the answers to the questionnaire's questions shows that although there are not many people who consider it best to return to the former methods they do exist among all age groups and social strata of the population.

Personal affluence considerably influences the choice of path for emerging from the crisis (that is borne out by the results of the study). Thus, the largest number of supporters of the activation of reforms is among people who are well-off materially (33 percent). The largest number of supporters of the "suspension" of reforms and the introduction of order to our affairs is among those who consider their material position to be lower than average (71 percent). It is primarily those whose wages do not allow them to eat normally (13 percent) who consider it necessary to return to the former methods.

Along which path should we proceed in the future? Here too there is no unanimous opinion. Some 3 percent of those polled expressed themselves in favor of a capitalist path, 33 percent are in favor of a mixed economy, and 58 percent favor a socialist choice.

Some 33 percent of those under the age of 20 and 14 percent of those aged 21-30 gave their preference to capitalism. Some 80 percent of members of joint ventures and entrepreneurs, 75 percent of individual farmers and lessees, and 67 percent of cooperative members "voted" for a mixed path. The largest number of supporters of a socialist choice is among state farm workers and kolkhoz members (69 percent), agricultural specialists (67 percent), and teachers, instructors, and pensioners (65 percent).

Summing up the results of the opinions, the following conclusion may be drawn:

1. There is endurance and endurance. It is one thing to endure privations for the sake of goals which do not give rise to doubts, quite another to do so for the sake of experiments generated by someone's incompetence and lack of professionalism or personal ambition.

2. The duration of endurance may increase and may be reduced. That depends more on each person than on aid from the West.

3. A particular path of development and measures for its implementation are approved by the government, but the decision on them is taken by the people since they implement these measures.

Poll Results Indicate Pervasive Pessimism

PM0111162791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Oct 91 p 3

[Report by V. Gerasimov, sociological research group leader; "Mirrored by the Poll": "What of the Future..."]

[Text] "We are working with you to find the answers"—that was the title of a poll published in PRAVDA 9 October. Over a period of a few days the editorial office received more than 20,000 letters answering the questionnaire. The readers' response indicates that people need to have a dialogue with their papers. You can call yourself an independent press organ as much as you like, but you cannot get away from human agony, from public disquiet, from the problems of our tough existence. PRAVDA will continue, as in past years, to be dependent on the mood of its readers.

What do the poll's preliminary results show? On checking a representative selection of 1,225 returns we saw that we were read by young and old. It is interesting that men were especially prominent—there were twice as many answers from men as from women. There was a new category in evidence—unemployed people.

Nearly one-half of the respondents appended their own specific proposals and voiced opinions on the situation in the country. Some writers compared it to a nightmare. There is growing uncertainty in society about the future. Note that the answers were given before the Russian leadership's statement on the imminent introduction of unpopular measures, that is, price liberalization. The answers to the question "Do you feel socially protected?" divide up as follows: Yes—6 percent; not entirely—56 percent; not protected socially—34 percent; no response—4 percent.

There was a note of pessimism when it came to forecasting the future. It appears that the majority are already resigned to their unattractive social conditions, but what are we going to leave for future generations, aside from a handful of new millionaires, state debts, and a raped environment? To the question "Are you confident of a happy future for your children?" the answers come out as follows:

Yes, entirely—3 percent; more confident than not—12 percent; not confident rather than confident—25 percent; no, not confident—46 percent; don't know—10 percent.

So nearly one-half does not expect anything good in the future. Indeed, it is hard to say at the moment what the future will be like. At any rate, we are all involved in the political processes, and although we are rather tired of

seeing parliamentary spectacles on television and listening to politicians make speeches without committing themselves, the poll results show that what interests readers most in the paper is: political processes in the country—84 percent; social policy—48 percent; the economy—47 percent; international life—47 percent; facts, events, diary—47 percent; sociological research material—29 percent; law, jurisprudence—19 percent.

Finally, readers' attitudes toward PRAVDA. It is here that opinions are most contradictory and varied. Some think the paper is getting better, others say standards are falling.

Interest in PRAVDA of late: growing—53 percent; the same as before—31 percent; declining—10 percent; don't know—2 percent.

What you have seen is a selection of very preliminary results of our poll. When the mathematical and sociological processing is complete we will try to provide a general picture of the mood of the readership. Thank you all who responded! We invite you to collaborate on a permanent basis. After all, life is going to be throwing up many more questions.

Ministry Plan To Sell Lenin's Body Denied

LD0611110291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0928 GMT 6 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Petukhov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Nov (TASS)— The USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs has described as 'baseless inventions' a report which appeared in the American journal FORBES on the alleged intention of the Soviet Government to auction the embalmed body of V.I. Lenin and the intermediary role in this deal of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The FORBES journal asserted that in connection with the deepening crisis and lack of food during the winter period that the USSR leadership intends to sell Lenin's body at international auction, the starting price for which, the journal asserts, is estimated at $15 million.

A Ministry of Internal Affairs spokesman told a TASS correspondent that the ministry's position will be expounded in more detail today at a press conference in the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Barannikov To Sue Over Report

LD0611132491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1230 GMT 6 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Petukhov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Nov (TASS)— USSR Minister of Internal Affairs Viktor Barannikov has described a report that has appeared in the American FORBES magazine, on the alleged intention of the Soviet Government to auction off the embalmed body of V.I. Lenin, and on the intermediary role of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs in the matter, as "an unpardonable lie" . He stated this at a briefing at the USSR Foreign Ministry today, replying to questions from journalists.

The article in FORBES magazine, which says that the idea of selling Lenin's body had been approved by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, "was fabricated by someone and is a serious provocation", the minister said.

He declared that he will take official measures to institute court proceedings. Viktor Barannikov reserves the right to conduct an investigation with regard to the persons who supplied the journalists with this kind of information.

Economic

Bank Officials Brief IEC on Foreign Debt

OW0611060291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2308 GMT 5 Nov 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Soviet Union might, by the middle of November, already be unable to service its foreign debt, and it is considering alternatives to resolving the crisis.

Viktor Geraschenko, chief of Gosbank, the country's central bank, said on Tuesday [5 November] that either "the Soviet Union must declare itself insolvent", or "the republics must immediately reach an agreement concerning its foreign financial problems". Mr. Geraschenko took part in the discussions of the USSR's foreign debt problems at a session of the Interrepublic Economic Committee (IEC), in Moscow.

Vnesheconombank: Running Short on Hard Currency.

Anatoliy Nosco, vice chairman at Vnesheconombank USSR (the country's central bank for foreign trade), announced that Vnesheconombank's hard currency deficit will be "no less than 1 bn [billion] hard rubles" (approx $1.8 [figure as received] at the official Soviet rate of exchange) by the end of the month. At the IEC session, Mr. Nosco reported that Vnesheconombank expected at the beginning of the year a monthly income of 1.7-1.8 bn hard rubles. In October, only 1.35 bn hard rubles came in. Mr. Nosco blamed the deficit on the fall of worldwide oil prices and on the delay of promised Western credits.

In November Vnesheconombank predicts, hard currency receipts will amount to approximately 1.1 bn hard rubles at which time the deficit might exceed 1 bn hard rubles.

Is There a Solution to the Crisis?

Arkadiy Volskiy, vice chairman of the IEC, said that one source of hard currency income might be the sale of

foreign debts, amounting to $104 bn, owed to the Soviet Union primarily by Third World countries. Mr. Volskiy believes that these debts could be sold to Western financial institutions for $45 bn.

Mr. Nosco reminded the session that the USSR bestowed the majority of these credits without interest and that they would therefore be of little interest to western banks.

For his part, Mr. Nosco proposed obtaining immediate credits from the West drawn against the Soviet Union's gold reserves, and temporarily halting payments on routine imports (with the exception of medical goods and payment of freight charges for Soviet shipping).

It seems that borrowing hard currency from Soviet enterprises is also possible. Soviet enterprises keep about 5 bn hard rubles in Vnesheconombank accounts. Mr. Nosco says that they have "perhaps a little bit less" kept in foreign banks and in Soviet banks abroad. However, Vnesheconombank estimates that loan agreements could not be reached sooner than three months. Furthermore, no more than 100-200 mn [million] hard rubles would be expected from the operation because of present distrust in loaning to the government.

In Moscow One Dollar—110 Rubles.

Meanwhile, at the Gosbank hard currency exchange, one dollar fetched 110 rubles. An exchange's broker called the unprecedented fall in the ruble "a panic". Last week, a dollar in Moscow cost 70.3 rubles.

'Sharp Downturn' in 1991 Foreign Trade Reviewed

PM0511163091 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 43, 27 Oct-3 Nov 91 p 11

["SovEcon" report: "This Country Is Stuck in 1977 As Regards the Level of Exports"]

[Text] Foreign trade has plunged 37 per cent. Exports have been reduced by 23 per cent, imports by 48 per cent. Soviet foreign trade has been unstable since the mid-1980s. Steady growth continued until 1986, then turned into stagnation, followed by a slump in 1990. The slump took a sharp downturn in 1991.

Trade with former allies in Eastern Europe almost halved in the first six months of this year due to the switchover to payments in convertible currency. The partial reversion to payment in national currencies will somewhat allay the problem, but the number of former COMECON [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance] partners will fall during 1991 and their share in Soviet imports will be down to 28 per cent, in exports 39 per cent.

The slump sharply intensified in 1991. Due to the transition to clearings in freely convertible currency the volume of foreign trade with former CMEA [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance] member-countries declined by 57 per cent in the first eight months. And though a partial return to clearings in national currencies will ease the problem, the share of countries which belonged to the CMEA will fall during 1991; USSR imports by 27-30 per cent, its exports by 35-40 per cent.

The foreign economic ties of joint ventures in the USSR have been adversely affected by the state's taxation policy: an enterprise is duty bound to sell 40 per cent of its currency earnings to the USSR Vnesheconombank [Bank for Foreign Economic Activity] under a patently understated commercial rate of exchange. Taking into account other taxes and deductions, on average from 15 to 25 per cent of hard currency earnings remain at the enterprise's disposal. Direct taxes on export have likewise increased and average from 5 to 50 per cent depending on the type of commodities. All this tends to sap the enterprises' incentive for the development of exports and reduces the possibilities of import.

Upwards of 4,200 joint ventures had been registered by July 1, 1991. Many of them are active in the Russian Federation and the Baltic states. Only a third are engaged in production; the remainder mainly deal with commercial brokerage. At present joint ventures account for 0.4 per cent of the total volume of industrial output. Their increasing number reflects the desire of Soviet businessmen to adapt to the rigid legislation and tax regulations concerning export-import transactions and currency revenues.

"Internal export" and barter deals with joint ventures have enabled Soviet enterprises to receive roubles from them and use this to purchase hard currency at auction. Under the officially registered barter deals alone, in the first half of the year this turnover accounted for 4 per cent of the country's foreign trade turnover. The volume of export was nearly 150 per cent that of import operations. As always, raw material resources in short supply have been the main items of barter export.

To eliminate this practice the State Bank of the USSR has replaced currency auctions with exchange trade in foreign currency with even stricter limitations on its purchase for Soviet enterprises: it has been made incumbent on them to state their reasons for foreign currency purchases.

As a result active currency transactions have shifted to the Baltic states, where auctions are regular occurrences, and to the black market.

The dynamics of export supplies from the USSR have traditionally been determined by the volume of export of fuel and raw materials, with oil taking first place. But during the first year the extraction of oil and coal declined by 10 and 11 per cent respectively in comparison with the corresponding period last year. Export of these products likewise shrank. This trend is now being intensified. The export of natural gas alone has been maintained at the level of last year. The coming winter, however, has necessitated switching about nine billion mu m [as published] of gas destined for export to the domestic market.

According to our estimates, sales of basic export commodities will diminish by an average of 30 to 50 per cent: export of oil will fall from 108.6 million tons in 1991, of oil products from 50 million ton to 26-28 million tons, pig iron from 6.3 to 2.8-3.0, rolled ferrous metals from 8.4 to 3.0-3.2 million tons.

The level of exports will sink to that of 1977. In the first eight months of 1991 imports shrank by 45 per cent (16.0 billion foreign currency roubles)—mainly on account of raw materials, industrial supplies, consumer goods and some food products (cocoa beans, tea, butter and vegetable oil). As a result a favourable balance of foreign trade turnover has been formed to the tune of about two billion roubles for the first time in the past two years.

However, it will hardly be possible to retain this favourable balance to the end of the year. Most likely it will fall to zero—to maintain the economy's viability there will be a need to considerably increase import purchases on most items. The yearly volume of import will amount to a mere 50-55 per cent of last year's level. This is the lowest figure in the past 13 years.

1991 has revealed the highly centralized Soviet economy's extreme dependence on, and sensitivity to, changes in foreign trade. Thus the approx 45 per cent decline in the output of the food industry has been due to the reduction in imports. In light industry this figure comes to 25-30 per cent. However, there are no grounds on an increase in imports in 1992 due to the continuing production recession in export sectors, primarily fuel and energy.

Country's Gold Industry Experiences 'Crisis'

OW0611034791 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Report by S. Krasnopeyev; from the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's statement that our state gold reserves consist of only 240 tonnes amazed specialists in this sphere, because they know full well that this is considerably less than is obtained in a year's production. Although in fairness, we must say that the gold industry is experiencing a crisis. [video shows a bulldozer operating in extensive earth works, snow clad views of the Chukotka Cooperative Enterprise plant]

[Krasnopeyev] The state order has been fulfilled. The fatherland's money box, as they used to say before, has become fuller by many tonnes of the precious metal. However, the people who extract it have not started to live any better. We filmed this at the Chukotka Prospecting Artel of the Komsomolskiy Ore Concentration Combine. The collective has been in existence for 25 years. All those years it has been fulfilling all the plans and tasks and has been working assiduously and conscientiously at a pace unfamiliar to many—twelve hour shifts without days off. You will agree, that one can only work like that for oneself. The prospectors do not hide this fact. [video shows workshop operations]

But their own gain becomes profit for the state. Specialists have calculated that the economic effectiveness of the artel exceeds that of the state enterprise at least by two times. And the conclusion suggests this. The expansion of the prospectors' method will allow them to double gold production. But here is the paradox of our system: The world price for a gram of gold is hovering around 10 to 15 dollars, but the state pays the Chukotka miners, 20 rubles per gram. For this amount, one could not even buy 10 kg of potatoes. The state's monopoly over all precious metals operations places an insurmountable barrier in market relations, and in fact, is leading to the ruination of the industry.

[Begin L.I. Milinskiy, chairman of Chukotka Prospectors' Artel, recording] Until now, there have been only three countries that have created a monopoly on gold and have successfully speculated on it; these are the Soviet Union, Nicaragua, and Honduras. Naturally, extraction of gold will begin to fall quite significantly under this system, if it has not already done so. It would be better to preserve the extraction of gold at the present level. It is necessary to break up this monopoly and make gold a market item. Only under these conditions can extraction be increased, or in any case, maintained at its present level. [end recording]

[Krasnopeyev] And while a truly extortionate price for gold exists, our foreign exchange money box will grow emptier.

Private Mining Considered

OW0611062291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2308 GMT 5 Nov 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Soviet Union, whose gold reserves have, according to official reports, catastrophically dwindled in recent years, is seeking ways to increase the mining of precious metals.

Soviet specialists optimistically claim that the volume can be at least doubled.

Gold Deposits Are Predominant

A distinguishing feature of Siberian and Far Eastern mineral fields is the predominance of gold deposits which are found in the numerous rivers and streams. Government mining, which incur huge overhead costs (up to 65%), are profitable only with large deposits with concentrations of not less than 1 gram to 700 cubic meters of soil.

Kolyma is an especially famous mining region, where, in the 1930- 1950's, prison labor was used to establish the

local gold mining industry. Here, sifting for gold dust is the prevalent method. In southern Yakutsk, gold ore is predominant.

Traditionally, gold is also mined in the Urals, in the mountains of Central Asia, and in the Caucasus. In Armenia, gold ore is mined, and in Uzbekistan, after initially mining uranium ore, they have begun mining gold as well. Soviet specialists maintain that the Zeravshan mine is the most productive in the Soviet Union.

Private Entrepreneurs Prepare for the End of the Monopoly

Meanwhile, private Soviet businessmen prepare to begin mining gold on their own. Russian President Boris Yeltsin may soon abolish the government monopoly on gold mining established in 1959. The Moscow Commodity Exchange has already announced the founding of a consortium that has begun to develop fields containing precious metals in Siberia.

If the government monopoly is abolished, the volume of precious metals mined in the USSR will double within a year, specialists claim. They cite China's experience in the 70's. Beijing abolished the monopoly on gold mining and raised the price for gold. This increased two-fold the amount of gold collected by the government—in less than a year.

New Mineral Deposits and New Technologies

The government firm "Dalgeologia", which has recently begun developing new techniques for alkaline extraction of gold from ore, plans to greatly increase the mining of precious metals in the Far East by introducing technologies new to the Soviet Union. The method commonly used in Canada, the USA and South Africa includes the use of light mobile enterprises, which make the traditional construction of permanent mines and workers' settlements obsolete. This new method, the specialists say, will increase the output of Soviet gold miners, presently no more than 2-3 kg a year (compare with U.S. output of 20 kg).

But as scientists try to introduce advanced technologies, geologists continue to count on new undiscovered precious metal reserves. One of the newest gold deposits was discovered near the city of Krasnoturinsk, in the Urals. According to the firm "Uralgeologia" this mine has great potential to become a profitable source of gold.

Lobov on 'Dwindling' Reserves

LD0611000991 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2013 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Oleg Lobov, deputy prime minister of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, stated in an interview for an RIA correspondent on 5 November that the all-Union gold reserve is dwindling fast. At the start of the year, it contained 500 tonnes of gold. By October, 240 tonnes remained. Lobov recalled that several months ago, most republics announced they would be forming their own gold and hard currency reserves and also hard currency funds. Republics ceased to supply gold extracted by them to the all-Union fund. At the same time, however, gold was centrally distributed to other republics, and only Russia remained as the source of supplies for the fund. This continued for several months. When Pavlov's government fell and all republics moved away from controlling the state gold reserves, Russia decided to bring them under its own jurisdiction. This was done to prevent the squandering of gold reserves. The issue of the share that other republics have in this gold reserve is a legal one, Oleg Lobov emphasized. If republics claim their share of the gold reserves, they ought to prove their rights to their shares, Russia's deputy prime minister stressed.

Official Remarks on Proposal To Mark Money

924A0142A Moscow TRUD in Russian 30 Oct 91 p 1

[Article by D. Grafov: "Bank Notes Are Not Birds: Whether Marked Money Can Help"]

[Text] I was told in the Central Bank of Russia right away that they were tired of refuting various rumors. Nobody was going to "freeze" either 3-ruble or 50-ruble (why these particular ones?) or any other bank notes. Everybody is especially concerned about an exchange of "Union" rubles for "Russian" ones. Here is the news: There will be no exchange.

"It is possible that we will conduct an indexation of money," said A. Buravtsev, deputy head of the main administration for organizing money turnover and emission and administration head of cash activity; "it is possible, I repeat. As long as USSR State Bank notes are in circulation we have no right to interfere alone. What does indexation mean? It is not to be confused with price indexation. Bank notes will have special markings that will allow us to distinguish between money issued in Russia and that issued by the Kazakhstan Central Bank, say.

"This is the concept: All banknotes will have two markings—a visible one, an oval, for instance, with the republic shown in it ('Russ,' 'Kaz,' 'Bel') and an invisible one or, rather a code that can be read by a sorting machine. It is expected that the republics wishing to accept this innovation—most of the signatories to the economic treaty have already agreed to it—will send their requests to the USSR State Bank to have the money printed in the necessary amounts, and then they will issue the money independently through their own central banks. At the end of 1992 all these republics will total everything up and see how much of 'somebody else's' money each of them has. If, for instance, Russia and Belarus have equal amounts of their notes, then there is no problem. If Russia has some hundred million more of the 'Uzbek' money, for instance, then Uzbekistan will supply goods equal to this sum or restore the trade imbalance in some other way.

"Thus the economic sovereignty of each republic is protected. Indexation will not infringe on any of the rights and interests of ordinary people. Residents of one republic will be able to exchange freely their 'own' money for the 'other' in local banks if they move to another republic. The exchange rate will remain constant at 1:1! The transition to the new, marked money is planned to be carried out gradually, by 'attrition' of the old notes. Free exchange of money, with no restrictions, is guaranteed. Wages and withdrawals from bank accounts will be paid in the new notes. This system of payments will be applied to cash money in circulation only.

"One bottleneck of the reform, according to experts, is equipment. We will now have to filter out almost 10 other types of money, on top of sorting out old and new notes.

"Why 10? Apart from the republics that signed the Economic Treaty, Georgia is also prepared to participate in money indexation, and the Ukraine agreed to index its money by 30 percent. What about the others? Independent states that use rubles in their payments may find themselves in a situation with unpredictable results. Suppose they do not introduce their own currencies in time and the Union ruble is found in museums only. Russia will give its final consent to the reform only after it is approved by the republic Supreme Soviet.

Military

Shaposhnikov Discusses Military Issues 5 Nov

Stresses Unified Armed Forces

LD0511190791 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Nov 91

["Fragment" of news conference given by USSR Defense Minister Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov for Soviet and foreign journalists in Moscow on 5 November—recorded]

[Text] [Shaposhnikov] We are now starting to create a unified economic zone, and it is natural that an understanding of this issue was also accepted by the State Council. Thus, the State Council adopted a decision on the unity of the Armed Forces. Alongside this, those processes which are taking place in the republics must not be left out of account, and so a decision was adopted on setting up a consultative body which will be called the Council of Ministers of Defense of Sovereign States. The duties assigned to this body consist of periodically meeting together, perhaps once a month or as necessary, and not necessarily in Moscow but in the capitals of our Union states; at these meetings we will discuss general matters relating to military policy, military economics, finance, conscription, the establishment of troops, and other issues.

For the transitional period, the following plenipotentiary powers are being delegated to the republics: bodies of civil defense, military departments at higher educational establishments, organizations of the Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Air Force, and Navy; and other structures are being transferred to their jurisdiction. The responsibility of republics for the state of military affairs or matters of defense which they will handle will thus increase, and we shall together be responsible for those matters which our state has entrusted to us. I think that at the present time there can be no other, different path, because if we are now speaking about an economic community, if we are now embarking on the path of signing a Union treaty, a new Union treaty, then of course, there is no sense in dividing up the Armed Forces in the current situation.

And the second aspect. Ahead of us, comrades, is a very difficult time. Ahead of us are most powerful programs to get our country out of the economic crisis, proposed by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin at the Congress of Russian People's Deputies, ahead of us lies a difficult winter, and for us now to set about dividing up the Armed Forces, under these circumstances is, I feel, absolutely unacceptable, and I am grateful to our State Council which adopted such a radical and optimum decision in these circumstances.

The decision has been taken on setting up a national guard in the republics. These will be based, will be set up on the basis of the republican Ministry of Internal Affairs troops, and will in the future be established by citizens who have served their time in the ranks of the Soviet Army. There will be no other troop formations, with the exception of the national guard which will tackle domestic matters and the protection of the more important government institutions, and possibly, will join the republican presidential guard system.

Details Republic National Guards

LD0511181891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1732 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow 5 Nov (TASS)—The policy of the unity of the Armed Forces and of collective security, adopted by the Fifth Congress of USSR People's Deputies, was supported by the members of the USSR State Council on 4 November. All matters concerning military construction will be tackled on that basis and within that framework. This was stated by Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, USSR minister of defense, at a news conference held at the military department today for Soviet and foreign journalists.

At the same time, he commented, we must not overlook the specific nature of the processes under way in the individual republics. A decision was adopted to establish a consultative body, which will be called the Council of Ministers of Defense of the Sovereign States [Sovet Ministrov Oborony Suverennykh Gosudarstv]. It will

meet periodically to discuss matters of military policy, military economics, the financing of troops and acquisition of manpower for them and the draft for active service.

Civil defense bodies, military departments at higher education establishments and organizations of the Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy will pass to the jurisdiction of the republics for a transitional period. It is planned to use Interior Ministry Internal Troop subunits which are subordinate to the republics as the foundation on which national guards will be set up. These formations, which are primarily intended to guard important state and government installations, will be manned by citizens who have completed their compulsory service. All other military structures remain under the jurisdiction of the center.

The defense minister denied reports of plans to establish a new naval base on the territory of Krasnodar Kray.

Views Presence in Cuba

OW0511195791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his Tuesday [5 November] interview for IF [INTERFAX] the USSR Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov said one day earlier the USSR State Council "almost unanimously" had supported the Defense Ministry's idea of forming the united Armed Forces of the sovereign republics. He said the council had approved of the plan "to control both the 'nuclear button' and the troops from a single center."

Mr. Shaposhnikov expressed gratitude to Mikhail Gorbachev "and especially to Boris Yeltsin, who was the first to speak after the defense minister."

He said the State Council had supported the suggestion that the Army be put on a professional basis and that mandatory army service be reduced to 18 months.

"After decades of military development that disregarded the borders between the republics, it would be irresponsible, to say the least, to tear everything down overnight," Shaposhnikov said. He noted, however, that the center would not be justified in denying to the sovereign republics their right to contribute to common defense. A consultative defense council involving republican military experts should be set up, Mr. Shaposhnikov suggested, to convene at least once a month—and not necessarily in Moscow—to "work out common approaches to military strategy." The military commissariats, schools and academies, as well as the whole of civil defense, should be put under republican control, the minister said

He observed that the unilateral moves some of the republics had made to set up armed forces of their own and their claims for a share of the Defense Ministry's property "are flagrantly at odds with the resolutions of the 5th Congress of USSR People's Deputies on the Armed Forces' unity and on collectiwe security."

Asked by IF's reporter to comment on Boris Pankin's proposal to reduce the number of GRU [Main Intelligence Directorate] agents in embassy staffs, Mr. Shaposhnikov noted that "generally speaking, the staffs of all ministries should be reduced, and pointing to some particular agency is probably redundant."

Marshal Shaposhnikov drew attention to the fact that the Defense Ministry and the Foreign Ministry had not had any serious differences with regard to President Bush's latest initiatives or the coordination of Soviet nuclear cuts suggestions advanced in response. In his view, "our proposals concerning tactical and strategic weapons reductions were even bolder."

Replying to a question about the deadline for the removal of the Soviet training center from Cuba, Mr. Shaposhnikov said that "it is first and foremost Cuba's concern," but added that a mutually acceptable way of dealing with the problem could well be found. "Our protracted military presence in various countries has brought us nothing except economic damage," the minister summed up.

Accommodating Returning Servicemen Viewed

PM0511153391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 1 NOV 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast: Report by V. Kondratyev]

[Text] [Kondratyev] The German press has reported that the supreme leadership of the Soviet Army is ready to speed up the withdrawal of our Army from the FRG. However, the deadline for a definitive and complete withdrawal remains unchanged—the end of 1994. The construction of residential accommodation for Soviet officers and ensigns is also being accelerated. It seems that the Germans are offended that our ministry gave construction contracts first and foremost to Turkish and Austrian firms and not to German firms. How can it be that the FRG is offering between 70 and 80 billion marks for this purpose but its rivals will be doing the work? We met halfway: German firms have also been given contracts, in particular the well-known "Philipp Holzmann" concern. Finding a solution to the problem of accommodating the officers and ensigns leaving Germany depends to a large extent on our domestic problems, too. Many of the apartments are being constructed in the Ukraine—but the Ukraine is setting up its own Army. So how will this affect the accommodation construction program funded with German aid? Will it be necessary to alter the plans agreed with such difficulty? At the same time, it is reported that servicemen from the Western Group of Forces in Germany are also steadily leaving the country. Where are they going, and on what terms are they leaving? These are the questions which are the most important for them and the members of their families right now.

Naval Base To Be Built in Krasnodar Kray

LD0511012691 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 2300 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The Red Banner Black Sea Fleet is soon to have another naval base. It will be situated on the territory of Krasnodar Kray. This decision is needed because the fleet's main base, Sevastopol, is now on the territory of the sovereign Ukraine.

The southern border of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] on the Black Sea will be effectively left open. Russia has been reliably protected from the sea, since the days of Peter the Great. It now emerges that Krasnodar Kray is the only outlet to the sea in the south of the RSFSR. Let us recall that a major maritime trading port, Novorossiysk, is there.

Admiral Denies Report

LD0511210891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1535 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 5 November (TASS)—"I know nothing about the plans for construction of a Navy base on the territory of Krasnodar Kray. In any case, the naval command has not taken any such decision," said Admiral of the Fleet Ivan Kapitanets, first deputy commander-in-chief of the Navy.

On Monday [5 November] a TASS correspondent reported from Krasnodar that construction of a Navy base will begin in the near future on the territory of this kray. He did not reveal the source of this information.

Conference Aids Moves to Market Economy

LD0411174991 Moscow TASS in English 1701 GMT 4 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaisky]

[Text] Moscow November 4 TASS—An international conference "The military under conditions of a market economy" will be convened in March next year in Moscow. It is called upon to help the Soviet Armed Forces personnel solve various problems arising from the forthcoming transition of the economy to market relations and to study similar foreign experiences. The initiative to call this conference has come from "The International Center of Universal Values" headed by Mikhail Matskovskiy, Ph.D. "The first working meeting preparing for the conference has taken place today" a coordinator of the conference Vladimir Lukov told TASS. As a result of market reforms services personnel and their families are finding themselves in worse social and domestic conditions than the "civil" population.

He noted that the conference plans to discuss humanitarian, socio-economic and political aspects of arising problems and prepare practical recommendations, including elaboration of a system of social protection of the military during their service and after their transfer to the reserve.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on Baltic Withdrawal

PM0511125791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

[Vladimir Urban "Editorial View:" "Will the Withdrawal From the Baltic Be Expedited?"]

[Text] One thing is clear: We will have to leave the Baltic area. In three, four, or five years' time. The specific questions are now beginning to be asked: When will our forces go, and where to? Even if it happens in 10 years' time, the political and social significance of the problems that arise is unaffected. But what if it is next year?

I am prepared to listen to objections—after all, the USSR Defense Ministry leadership has repeatedly stated: The withdrawal of troops from the Baltic is feasible after 1994, when our troops have finally quit Eastern Europe. But, as you will agree, this is only the view of one side. Particularly as none of the leaders of the USSR delegations at the talks with the Baltic states, aside from A. Sobchak, or the Union president, as supreme commander in chief, has voiced opinions on these questions.

Of course, any negotiating process is a web of compromises. And forecasts are impractical. Nonetheless, it is possible to say even now that our partners are far more active. The demand by the Baltic Council for the withdrawal of the "occupying forces" from the new states' capitals before 1 December caused such a commotion in the garrisons that the reverberations will continue for a long time yet.

In short, the very "object" of the future talks—the servicemen in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia—are fearful of being thrown out onto the street. Suffice it to recall the appeals by the officers of the Kaunas Airborne Division, the motorized rifle division stationed in Vilnius, the Liepaja Garrison, and so on, which in one degree or another were published in our newspaper. One might easily categorize them as an emotional outburst by people who have been driven into a corner. But since the officers reserve the right (I cite one of the letters) "to act independently if our views are ignored," then this has to be reckoned with, if only because these people are armed.

But what kind of answer does one hear? Practically nothing. Recently we published the opinion of Admiral V. Yegorov, commander of the Baltic Fleet, on the presence of the fleet's forces in the Baltic states (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 October). The commander based himself, in particular, on the agreement between the USSR Defense Ministry and the Estonian Government on priority measures to solve questions connected with the presence of the contingent of Union Armed Forces on the territory of the Estonian Republic, which was published in Estonian papers. And no wonder. He simply did not have any other sources at the time, although nearly two weeks had elapsed since the signing of the agreement. So what can you say about the officers

when the commander cites a commentary on the agreement by Estonian Government Press Secretary S. Chernov to the effect that "there will be a separate schedule for the withdrawal of naval forces."

Incidentally, since we have mentioned Chernov's commentary, something else he said is interesting: The republic's government wants to see "the bulk of the forces withdrawn during 1992." Lithuanian leader V. Landsbergis takes an even harder line. At a recent news conference he said: "The withdrawal of Soviet forces should begin immediately."

I tend to sympathize with the Balts: Sovereign states need full control of their territory. There are many independent countries in the world which have foreign armies on their territory, but their presence is governed by interstate treaties. However, the USSR has not yet even started talks with the Baltic states. I believe it is partly this that enables them to call for "preliminary steps" by the Union on the withdrawal of forces and to remove the very question of their status from the talks process. But, if I am not mistaken, this is what diplomats call prior conditions. In simple terms, the soldiers are gradually becoming hostages of complex political games to which there is no end in sight.

With the USSR's recognition of Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian statehood the Baltic issue ceased to be a purely internal one and became an issue of international law. It was no accident that during the signing in Helsinki of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, A. Gorbunovs, head of the Latvian parliament, did not miss the chance to play a familiar card when he said: "...The full realization of sovereignty and the implementation of democratic processes in our independent state are seriously hindered by the Soviet Army's presence." Further on in his speech, as one might have known, he voiced the hope that the CSCE countries would back the demand for the immediate withdrawal of USSR Armed Forces.

Having just become associate members of NATO, the Balts will certainly try to use this organization for their own purposes. Not for nothing have people in the republics already started talking frankly about a change of "umbrella." But Russia is also taking steps in NATO's direction. At any rate, the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] parliamentary delegation at the Madrid meeting of the North Atlantic Assembly tried to expand bilateral contacts, and not without success.

It is not a journalist's job to give the international community advice, but I think this is a special case. It is understandable that our potential expedited withdrawal from the Baltic area would influence not only the disposition of forces in the European security system but would also spark off a new social explosion in the Army. So for the umpteenth time we will be having to look over our shoulder at the West. The CSCE countries should now adopt a declaration on the legal and social protection of people who are safeguarding global security. In the first place, of course, this applies to our Army. Another scenario, if written by life, may have unpredictable consequences for Europe.

No one anywhere is expecting the forces stationed in the Baltic area. At any rate, that is the situation as it stands at the moment. Let us be frank about this. It is odd, to say the least, that Russia has not yet expressed its view on this, it has not yet said that it is prepared to welcome the forces, but only when winter quarters have been prepared. Maybe it is "inconvenient" for Russia to raise now the question of the status of the forces in the Baltic area, even if only their temporary status.

It happens in politics that sometimes we are in a hurry and sometimes we are hopelessly late. Yet the status of the forces could have been determined in a civilized manner a year ago. Let us avoid compounding the old mistakes with new ones. Particularly as the Army is painfully affected by the syndrome of withdrawal from Eastern Europe, with the social consequences having been virtually ignored.

Once again it is time for thought. In the meantime, in accordance with the accord between the USSR Defense Ministry and the Government of the Estonian Republic, airborne subunits must be withdrawn from the cities of Voru and Viljandi before 3 November. Lieutenant General V. Bobryshev, chief of staff of the Baltic Military District, visited Voru recently to tackle questions of the disbandment and withdrawal of the battalion there. "All work is proceeding according to plan," he told our correspondent .

So, we are leaving....

Military Joint-Stock Company Created

LD0411142791

[Editorial Report] Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian at 1600 GMT on 2 November carries a 17-minute feature presented by Kim Kukhovlev on a new joint-stock company, the Military-Industrial Investment Company (Voyenno-promyshlennaya Investitsionnaya Kompaniya), whose constituent assembly was held recently in Moscow.

Kukhovlev begins by saying that the defense sector is attracting the gaze of the country's business community and this new company will engage in military and investment business. It has a long list of founders, including the Military-Industrial Stock Exchange, the Russian Commodity and Raw Materials Joint Stock company, the Moscow Central Stock Exchange, the Russian Commercial National Bank, the Central Scientific Research Institute of Machine-Building, the Khrunichev Works, the Pleshakov Scientific Production Association, the Congress of Stock Exchanges, the Economic News Agency, the (Kamey) joint stock company, commodity and stock exchanges, research and development institutes, the Dzerzhinskiy Military Academy, the Ministry of Railways Central Communications Center, and

the VNP-Tsentr joint stock company. Kukhovlev includes in the list "Army unit No 57275-1." He goes on to say: "That's no military secret now."

Next, Kukholev interviews Aleksey Vladimirovich Gribkov, chairman of the VNP-Tsentr joint stock company and member of the board of the Military-Industrial Investment Company, and Viktor Vasilyevich Berezhnoy, who are board member and director respectively of the new company.

Berezhnoy comments that "it's no secret that centralized financing of defense sectors of industry has been sharply cut, if not halted completely. We believe that a highly interesting intellectual, economic, and technological potential, is concentrated precisely in these industrial sectors. They could well be the engine that will pull our entire economy out of its current chaos. Thus, the idea is to create a kind of mechanism to allow us to survive, that will help us out of this dead-end. In essence, this means a structural reform of our country's military-industrial complex. Foreign experience shows that during structural reform, the role of investment houses and investment foundations grows, and these are the instruments that ensure the actual redirection of capital from one sector to another and at the same time automatically resolve societal problems, looking after self-interest in deriving maximum profit."

Gribkov continues by saying that the planned start-up capital for the business is about one billion rubles [R], of which R350 million have already been raised: partly in cash and partly in the form of rights to use buildings, communication equipment, etc. The company should be operational by the end of this year, and will at least initially invest heavily in setting up a commercial communications network carrying market-research data.

Gribkov adds that this network will also supply "information on the business climate in various regions of our country, on orders placed with defense structures that are now scattered throughout the former Union. This integrated network, in my opinion, within the framework of the military-industrial investment company, has real potential for rapid and successful development."

He continues: "Among the list of founders, you named unit No 57275. To the well-informed, and this is no longer any military secret, it's well-known that this unit is engaged in control systems for space communications vehicles. Since it's one of the founders, we plan to set up a significant space-communications business with its help. Our company plans to invest part of its capital in production."

Berezhnoy elaborates on investment plans: first, information networks; second, market infrastructure and services; third, share issues by and privatization of defense-sector enterprises as legislation permits; fourth, banking, exchanges, insurance, and other purely financial activities.

Gribkov continues by saying that both theoretical and practical work is under way for turning defense factories into private shareholders' companies and placing shares on the primary market. Two unnamed factories, one near Moscow and the other near Saratov, have already been lined up, he says. In the long run, the new company will branch out from privatization projects in the defense sector alone.

Organizations investing over R10 million will have preferential rights regarding policy-making and investment in projects that the company is involved in, explains Berezhnoy.

Gribkov adds that special attention will be given to investment in new technology and research, to make good shortfalls in central financing.

Shares in the military-industrial company defense-sector enterprises, Berezhnoy says, will be a safe hedge against looming hyperinflation and monetary devaluation, since they are backed up with hard assets. They will be a safe repository for state-issued "privatization coupons," for the same reasons. Asked what's in it for the defense complex itself, he replies: "The entire defense complex, to put it bluntly, could well be bought up by foreign companies. There's enormous interest. According to some evaluations, the ruble, the money used in our defense complex, is equal to the dollar in the U.S. defense complex. In these terms, in quality and intellectual potential, we are not lagging behind in this field. We do have a lot of technology that attracts U.S. industrialists." Gribkov explains that the ruble-dollar valuation has been deliberately arrived at by using the old Central Bank commercial rate.

Next, Gribkov sets out the way in which the new company will issue shares: initially in blocks of 100 at R100,000 per block, then 12-18 months later single shares at the same price of R1,000 for the ordinary worker. Shares can be held in common by syndicates of workers. He continues that due to defense cuts, many ordinary workshops producing, say, pieces of artillery, are now standing idle. Their plans will allow factories to diversify, finding clients for new civilian products.

Berezhnoy picks up on this: "Not necessarily new products. I wouldn't like our conversation to give the impression that we're involved solely in converted defence enterprises, because we're not. We're involved in the defense complex in its entirety."

Gribkov says: "That's a very important qualification. The fact is that we're trying very hard to attract orders from the West, from Britain, France, the United States. But third world countries in Latin America and Africa

are showing huge interest in our production base. For them, our defense-complex products are very interesting, because they're reliable and simple to use. For their level, they're just what's needed. And we're trying to create a way of matching the client to his ideal manufacturer. There are already specific projects, although it would be premature to speak of their implementation, but it's already clear that returns will be very high and this will be of interest to both client and manufacturer."

Berezhnoy concludes the item with a discussion of the relative values of the ruble to the Soviet defense industry and the dollar to its U.S. counterpart industry: "Where the production base and the intellectual base are concerned, then of course our ruble is undoubtedly of no less value than the dollar".

Gribkov confirms that one of the new company's aims is to halt the slide in the value of the ruble on the domestic market, affirms his confidence in the economic and industrial potential of the USSR, and laments the industrial and cultural "decay" of the country.

Fuel Shortage Prevents Fleet From Duties

LD0511101691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] If until now we used to think that our borders were well guarded, the current situation which has come about at the sea section of the Pacific border okrug can be compared to a wide open door. Guard vessels whose duty it is to guard the 200-mile economic zone and USSR's territorial waters have dropped the anchor for an indefinite time at the places of their dislocation. A commander of one of the sea border crews told a TASS correspondent that the reason for not going out to sea was the absence of diesel oil for vessels. This crew alone needs at least 100 tonnes of it a month to monitor the 1,000-mile long stretch of the border. It does not seem much but the situation which has come about in the system of supplies for the fleet in conditions of the market made it simply impossible to obtain this ingredient. It is not yet known how long the search for oil will go on. It is easy, though, to calculate the losses which our country will have as a result of rapacious fishing in our waters if none of the vessels of this crew at least has been guarding the border since 12 October.

Estonia

South African Foreign Minister Botha Visits

Holds News Conference

OW0611100391 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1225 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] South African Foreign Minister Roelof Frederik Botha, who is presently visiting Estonia, will today have a meeting with the chairman of the Supreme Council, Arnold Ruutel. Speaking at a press conference in Tallinn yesterday Mr. Botha stressed that both South Africa and Estonia were interested in further developing their cooperation. He said the purpose of his visit to Estonia was to make some preliminary steps towards the establishment of diplomatic relations with it and explore the possibilities of future economic cooperation between the two nations.

Estonian Foreign Minister Lennart Meri gave a positive appraisal of the recent developments in South Africa and expressed the hope that Estonia and South Africa "will be able to protect their democratic achievements by peaceful means." Mr. Meri expected that Estonia might open the way to the Eastern European market for South Africa, whereas the latter could provide services for Estonian fishing vessels sailing near the South African shores.

It was announced that Estonia and South Africa had drawn up a basic plan for the establishment of diplomatic relations. A provisional arrangement has also been made in accordance with which the South African ambassador in Helsinki will simultaneously act as the ambassador to Estonia.

Meets Ruutel, Discusses Ties

LD0511193891 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Roelof Frederik Botha, foreign minister of the Republic of South Africa [RSA], met Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Republic of Estonia Supreme Council in Kadriorg today. As reported through ETA by the press service of the chairman of the Republic of Estonia Supreme Council, Roelof Frederik Botha passed on to Arnold Ruutel greetings and best wishes from RSA President Frederik de Klerk.

The RSA foreign minister said that he had very interesting discussions with both the Estonian premier and foreign minister, and that he is pleased that diplomatic relations are being established between the RSA and Estonia.

Arnold Ruutel thanked the RSA Government for its support for Estonian independence and spoke about the tasks facing Estonia. Ideas were exchanged about developing relations between the two states. Mr. Botha said that he plans to task the RSA ambassador in Helsinki with representing RSA interests in Estonia; in addition, an RSA trade representative office will be opened in Tallinn in the future. This was reported by ETA.

Parliament Again Debates Citizenship Issue

OW0611103291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1225 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The current session of the Estonian parliament has brought up the citizenship issue again.

The commission on citizenship has proposed a draft for a decree which would consist of two parts, the first one providing for the reinstatement of the 1938 Law on Citizenship without any amendments made to it whatsoever, and the second one instructing the government to prepare a draft decree on the reinstatement of the 1938 law.

Deputy Sergey Petinov described the commission's draft as "an attempt to impose the making of political decisions on the government, a body which is supposed to deal with economic matters alone."

Deputy Ignar Fjuk said that the citizenship commission had failed to carry out the tasks it had been charged with and suggested that it be dissolved and replaced with a new, joint one consisting of members of parliament and government, which should establish a status for those who could not be given prohibited conscription for stateless persons, he said.

Deputy Sergey Sovetnikov said he could not understand why those who had been "honestly working for the benefit of the entire people of Estonia" could not be given Estonian citizenship.

Deputy Vitaliy Menshikov of the Civil Concord group suggested that there should be a clause in the decree to the effect that the preferential naturalisation provisions contained in Article 7 of the 1938 law should be extended to all persons permanently resident in Estonia. "Anyone who has chosen Estonia as his home should be given free choice," he said.

The discussion will be continued tomorrow.

Ethnic Relations Minister Questioned

LD0511213691 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By correspondent Gunnar Paal]

[Excerpts] The Supreme Council is at the moment discussing the issue of privitizing apartments and housing. [passage omitted]

First of all there came a request for more detailed information about statements in the press by Ethnic Relations Minister Artur Kuzentsov: Are the positions

that he has voiced also the positions of the government or are they his personal views only. An answer was requested from the prime minister but Artur Kuznetsov himself was sent to answer. He said that he had handed in his resignation twice already, and so far he has been refused. Artur Kuznetsov said that he is standing up for minority nationalities in Estonia. Apart from that, Mr. Kuznetsov said also that in the present situation we are talking about an undemocratic system here so that there is a great number of problems, a great number of question marks hanging in the air. But one thing is clear: One has to agree with the position voiced by Kalju Koha that a minister is a private individual only in a family circle; outside the family he is an official once he carries a minister's portfolio. [passage omitted]

KGB Offices Hand Over Property

OW0611062991 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2053 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the commission for the abolition of the Estonian KGB of the USSR, Mayor of Tallinn Hardo Aasmae has told journalists that local KGB offices in all districts have handed over their property to the local authorities. Archives from Rakvere will be moved to Tallinn on November 6, and from two cities in the southeast of Estonia—Kohtla-Jarve and Narva—next week.

Hardo Aasmae has told BF [BALTFAX] that his commission has already received the files of 14-15 thousand criminal cases. In the near future Estonia will receive 7,000 cases from Ulyanovsk, and 2,500 from Moscow, St. Petersburg and Archangel.

Milk Shortages Reported in Tallinn

OW0611054791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2053 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tallinn is suffering from acute shortages of milk and milk products. Mayor Hardo Aasmae has told BF [BALTFAX] in this connection that "unless the situation improves within the next few weeks, we'll have to introduce coupons, so that milk can reach at least those needing it the most."

Economists say the milk crisis cannot be overcome even if the price of milk goes up, since the producers prefer to process fresh milk into powder which sells well for hard currency.

The situation with potato supplies seems to be a little safer. Deputy director of the city's potato-processing factory, A. Butor says that of the 2-3 thousand tons of potatoes Tallinn needs to live through this winter 1,157 tons have already been procured. The rest may be bartered for sugar according to the formula: 10 kilos of potatoes per 1 kilo of sugar. The factory already has 200 tons of sugar for the purpose.

Estonia's Market Studies Institute says nearly 70 percent of Estonian families have independently procured the necessary minimum of potatoes for the winter.

Latvia

Army Property 'Declared' Latvian Property

LD0511191491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1810 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga, 5 Nov (TASS)—The Latvian Supreme Soviet adopted a decision today, according to which all the immovable property of the Armed Forces, border, and internal troops of the USSR within the territory of the republic is declared the property of Latvia.

According to Talavs Jundzis, chairman of the parliamentary commission for defense and internal affairs, various deals connected with the sale and purchase of Army property were concluded recently, with the participation of Union firms, associations, and exchanges. The process of the establishment of joint-stock companies at enterprises of the military-industrial complex in Latvia is arousing the anxiety of parliament. The Army has no right to trade in property that belongs to the Republic of Latvia, the deputy stressed.

The Supreme Soviet decided that all business deals in Army property can in the future be made only with the permission of the republic's government, and those concluded since 24 August this year are declared void. The leaders of the Baltic Military District, the Baltic Fleet, and other USSR military units are obliged, in the opinion of the Latvian parliament, to guarantee the integrity of military installations and not to allow them to be destroyed or dismantled without the consent of a special parliamentary commission.

The following answer was given to a question from opposition leader Sergejs Dimanis about the possibility of using some of the funds that might be gained from the sale of Armed Forces property for the social protection of former officers and their families: "Charity on the part of a state is possible only when the state is sufficiently wealthy. But the amount of damage done by the Army in its 50 or so years in the territory of Latvia has not yet been ascertained."

Lists of Delegates for Russia Talks Confirmed

LD0611104491 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpt] During the first half of the day at the Supreme Council today, the membership of the delegation for

talks with Russia was confirmed. The head of the delegation is Janis Dinevics, and there are 22 deputies as well as national economy leaders in the group.

The law on investments by foreigners in the Republic of Latvia was adopted at its third and final reading, and it was decided that the law is to come into force on the day of its publication. [passage omitted]

Group To Attend Kiev Meeting as 'Observer'

OW0611094191 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1645 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Latvian Economy Ministry press office, a Latvian delegation will attend a meeting of representatives of eight Union republics in Kiev November 9th as an observer. The meeting is expected to discuss the republics' participation in paying off the USSR's external debt, as well as their rights to shares in the Union's gold reserve.

Grain for Winter 'Probably' From Canada

OW0611044391 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1707 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvia's Minister of Agriculture, Dainis Gegers, told the newspaper Diena that this year the republic had harvested 360,000 tons less grain than last year. He said that Latvia would have to import 1.3 million tons of grain, or at the worst, 800,000 tons to survive till the next harvest time. All this will demand 25 million dollars.

The grain will probably be imported from Canada, on terms which are not known yet.

Lithuania

South Africa Ready To Restore Ties

LD0511224891 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] We are prepared to restore diplomatic relations with Lithuania and this obviously will be done in the nearest future, Roelof Frederik Botha, South African minister of foreign affairs, told journalists.

Today he was visiting Lithuania and met Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council; Vytautas Pakalniskis, deputy prime minister; and Algirdas Saudargas, minister of foreign affairs.

It was stated during the meeting that the Republic of South Africa could potentially be our trade partner. It was proposed that the Republic of South Africa send economists, businessmen, and experts who would examine the areas of specific cooperation. It was also said at the meeting that we were interested in getting to other countries through the Republic of South Africa.

New Law on Currency Passed

OW0611062391 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2053 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A law on the introduction in the republic of a new national currency was unanimously enacted by Lithuania's parliament on November 5. The law says that Lithuania's national currency units will be the lit and the cent, the latter equal to one hundredth of the lit.

The law institutes the Committee of the Lit, comprising head of state Vytautas Landsbergis, Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius and the head of the Bank of Lithuania, Vilis Baldis.

The Committee of the Lit will fix the date for the lit to go into circulation and the rouble to be withdrawn from circulation, as well as determine the lit's exchange rate against the rouble and other things.

The Committee of the Lit's decisions will be made by a consensus of all three of its members and will have binding force for all physical persons and legal entities in the republic.

After the new currency is formally introduced, lits and cents will be the only legal tender in the republic for all payments and settlements. The use of other currencies will be regulated under separate legislation.

New Currency Delayed for Political Reasons

OW0611044491 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1707 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking in parliament on November 5, Lithuanian Prime Minister, Mr. Gedimanas Vagnorius, said that the introduction of the new currency - the lit - will not occur either "beginning November 10, or beginning December 1, as some of the media report, primarily for political reasons." He said that to begin with, economic agreements should be concluded with the partners whose currency is the rouble. "If Lithuania instantly introduced its own currency, problems would arise in trade with the republics of the USSR," he said.

Mr. Vagnorius took part in parliamentary debates over the draft law on issuing the Lithuanian currency. This draft law envisages, among other things, the creation of a special committee for the introduction of the Lithuanian currency which is supposed to set the exact date for introducing the lit. The committee will consist of the head of the parliament, the prime minister and the director of the Lithuanian Bank.

Parliament Passes Emigration Law

OW0611054691 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2053 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliament of Lithuania has passed a law on emigration. It will come into effect on January 1, 1992. Emigration papers will be issued by the Interior Ministry. They will be denied to citizens indicted on criminal charges, convicts who have not served their term, those having access to state secrets and others.

The citizens of the Lithuanian Republic, who have been granted emigration papers, will be allowed to take with them all their property except for items of national value. Emigration permits will be given only to those men who have served in the army.

The law envisages punishment for systematic calls for emigration.

Foreign Ministry Urges Return of Property

OW0611005791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1524 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Lithuanian Republic has sent a note to the Foreign Ministry of the USSR in which it emphasises that, although Lithuania's independence has been officially recognised, "very slow progress has been made on issues concerning what used to be the property of Lithuania abroad before its occupation by the Soviet Union in July 1940." In particular, the note stresses, the USSR has still not returned the building of the former Lithuanian Embassy in Paris.

The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry requests its Soviet counterpart to take immediate steps to return to Lithuania what is its legitimate property.

Defense Minister Views Concepts, Policies

LD0611032291 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By correspondent Saulius Liauksminas]

[Text] Members of the Vilnius Sajudis Council met with leading officials of the Defense Ministry at the Institutes for Rural Construction Design conference hall, this evening. Representatives of the Customs Service were also invited.

The meeting was opened by Vilnius Sajudis Council members and Jurgis Razma, government representative. He welcomed those present, gave a brief account of the evening's program, and read out the extensive guest list.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Defense Audrius Butkevicius; Jonas Pauzuolis, deputy general defense director; Norbertas (?Vedrinskas), a deputy general director of that same department; members of the Republic Customs Service; Laima Kubiliene, deputy chief of the Vilnius Customs Office; and Valerijonas Valickas, a chief of the Republic Customs Service.

Jonas Pauzuolis, who was the first speaker, spoke about himself, provided a brief description of Defense Ministry activity, and answered questions.

Audrius Butkevicius then took the floor.

[Begin Butkevicius recording] I wish to inform you very briefly about what the Defense Ministry representatives are doing and what system is being created. I do not know whether my colleagues have already had the opportunity to talk about that. I would like to reply to some questions.

Well then, now about the system itself. One must begin with the statement that our state, the geopolitical situation of our state, is very complex. We are at a crossroads between the East and the West. Perhaps not [word indistinct] it, and it is this type of political situation that demands of us a special system of self-defense.

Several states in the world are small and have yet been able, in spite of this, to organize their defense and protection in a suitable fashion.

One of them is Israel, the other is Switzerland. The Scandinavian countries are also organizing their self-defense rather well—whether they be neutral, like Sweden, or such countries as Denmark and Norway, that belong to NATO.

The defense system of all of these is characterized as a total defense system. All life structures, necessary or state defense, are subordinated to it. Thus, the model toward which Lithuania is orienting itself also is one of total defense, and I will immediately explain what is meant by that.

I wish to state right away, however, that we understand well that we will not be able to secure our [word indistinct] safety by our strength alone. Therefore, political defense is vital and very important—our participation in political structures that ensure security. [end recording]

The meeting continued late into the night. Butkevicius gave a detailed account of the national defense concept and later, [word indistinct] answered eager questions.

Antanas Terleckas, leader of the Lithuanian Liberty League, also participated in the meeting.

Labor Party Pickets at Supreme Council Building

LD0511175191 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Today the weather is cloudy, but it did not prevent people from gathering at the Lithuanian Supreme Council building. As I understand, Algirdas

Brazauskas, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council and chairman of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, is also present.

[Brazauskas] Yes, I am here together with people who think the same way, who gathered here not only from Vilnius but also from many rayons. You can read slogans on the posters, what we are striving for: Without opposition there is no democracy; Democracy—yes, totalitarianism—no; Lithuania without opposition is Lithuania without democracy; and others. Impermissible methods are being applied against our party, and we are protesting against it. We consider that this should not happen in a democractic society. [passage omitted].

We protest, above all, against [words indistinct] that the newspaper VALSTIECIU LAIKRASTIS has been taken away from us, that in [words indistinct] rayons they attempt to expel us from the last two offices occupied by our [word indistinct]. This is why we are here today, so that the deputies can read [words indistinct]. [Moscow BALTFAX in English at 1524 GMT on 5 November transmits a similar report on the protest and adds the following: Gedimanas Kirkilas, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Democratic Party of Labor "said that after the adoption of that law the LDPL may lose all of its property, though it owns only 6% of the LCP's (CPSU) property."]

[Announcer] The BALTIC NEWS SERVICE reported that you intended to meet represetatives of European Parliament who are here.

[Brazauskas] Yes, we met them yesterday and handed in our statement to the European Parliament deputies. [passage indistinct].

'Hasty Move' to World Prices May Hurt Trade

OW0511012791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2353 GMT 4 Nov 91

[From "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mr. Vytautas Navitskas, Lithuania's deputy minister of economics, announced that Russia's initiation of economic reform may hamper bilateral relations. He emphasized that a hasty move to world prices in trade with the economically powerful Russian Federation could create new difficulties for the Baltic country's vulnerable economy.

At Monday's [4 November] session in the Lithuanian parliament, Mr. Navitskas said that Russia's position had recently "undergone significant changes." He added that over the summer the Russian Federation had made plans to move toward hard-currency accounting in the trade of raw materials. The exchange rate to be used was 1.8 rubles to the dollar, the USSR State Bank's official commercial exchange rate. Russia is now suggesting an exchange rate of 55 rubles to the dollar.

Minister Abisala Tenders Resignation

OW0611010091 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1524 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "I'm resigning because a parliament should trust a minister, Minister Without Portfolio Aleksandras Abisala said in an interviev granted to the LIETUVOS RYTAS newspaper.

Mr. Abisala tendered his resignation to the prime minister, Gedimanas Vagnorius, on October 10, 1991, after the Supreme Council of Lithuania refused to approve his appointment as minister for communications and informatics. He has not, however, made any public statement of his reasons for resignation until now.

The main reason, he said, was the mistrust parliment had shown for him, which made it impossible for him to continue with his duties as minister without portfolio, a post he had been given after the majority voted for him in parliament early this year. He acted as a "coordinator at the Lithuanian-Soviet negotiations" and supervised the state-run mass media.

The government has not considered Mr. Abisala's letter of resignation yet.

LIETUVOS RYTAS forecasts that another member of government, Deputy Foreign Ministr Egidijus Klumbys, will also resign shortly. The paper believes his reason is that the Foreign Affaris Commission of the Lithuanian parliament did not approve his appointment to this post in September 1991.

Fifth Congress of People's Deputies

Resolution Curbs Elections During Reforms

PM0511164791 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

["Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Resolution on the Organization of Executive Power During the Period of Radical Economic Reform"]

[Text] To provide stability for the organs of state power and management in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] during the period of radical economic reform, the Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies resolves:

1. To establish until 1 December 1992 a ban on holding elections of representative and executive state organs at all levels, except for the election of people's deputies to fill vacancies and the previously scheduled elections for the presidents and supreme soviets of RSFSR constituent republics.

2. That the RSFSR president is to resolve on his own, in accordance with the budget resources allocated by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, questions concerning the reorganization of the structure of the supreme organs of executive power until the adoption of the RSFSR Law "On the RSFSR Council of Ministers."

Prior to the holding of the elections of heads of administrations of krays, oblasts, autonomous oblast and autonomous okrugs, cities, and rayons, the heads of administration are to be appointed by the RSFSR president or, on his instruction, by the head of administration of the superior level by agreement with the relevant soviets and in light of the opinion of the RSFSR people's deputies of the territory in question.

This provision does not apply to the heads of administrations already appointed by the RSFSR president.

3. To advise the supreme soviets of RSFSR constituent republics to refrain from holding referendums during the period of radical economic reform.

4. To establish during the period of radical economic reform the subordination of lower executive organs to higher ones in questions concerning the competence of the higher organs.

To grant the executive organs of power the right to rescind decisions of lower executive organs if they are at variance with RSFSR legislation and normative acts aimed at implementing economic reform.

5. This resolution comes into force from the moment of its adoption and ceases to be valid on 1 December 1992.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet

The Kremlin, Moscow, 1 November 1991

Resolution on President's Economic Powers

PM0511165391 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

["Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Resolution on Legal Support for the Economic Reform"]

[Text] For the purposes of legal support for the transition to a market economy, the Congress of Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] People's Deputies **resolves**:

I. To establish before 1 December 1992 the following procedure for the legal regulation of the implementation and support for radical economic reform in the RSFSR:

1. RSFSR laws, RSFSR presidential decrees, and other acts adopted to support the economic reform in the RSFSR shall be implemented as a priority. In the period of implementation of radical economic reform, legislative acts of the USSR and the RSFSR are to be applied insofar as they do not contravene acts adopted in accordance with the present resolution.

USSR legislative acts which hinder the implementation of the economic reform may be suspended by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet or the RSFSR president.

2. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet is to examine draft laws and resolutions on banking, financial, taxation, and foreign economic activity, activity on questions of property relations, including the ownership of land and the natural resources of the RSFSR, and also on the activity of organs of state management in the implementation of and support for the economic reform in light of conclusions on these drafts submitted by the RSFSR president.

The RSFSR president must present his conclusions on a draft law or resolution on the aforementioned questions within two weeks of the receipt of the document by him. If the RSFSR president has not submitted his opinion within that time limit the draft may be examined without his conclusion.

3. Draft RSFSR presidential decrees on questions of banking, stock market, currency and financial, foreign economic, investment, and customs activity, the budget, price formation, taxation, property, the land reform, employment, and the competence, procedure for the formation, and activity of executive organs issued for the purpose of the flexible regulation of the course of the economic reform which contravene existing laws of the RSFSR shall be submitted by the RSFSR president to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and in the period between sessions to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

If a draft RSFSR presidential decree is not rejected by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet within seven days or by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium in the recesses between sessions, the decree shall come into force. If a

draft decree is rejected, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet shall examine it within 10 days as a draft law submitted by the RSFSR president.

II. The present resolution shall enter into force from the moment of its adoption.

[signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet

The Kremlin, Moscow, 1 November 1991

Federation Affairs

Filshin Remarks on Ensuring Debt Repayment

AU0511141491 Paris AFP in English 1410 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, Nov 5 (AFP)—The Russian republic would be prepared to ensure repayment of the Soviet foreign debt should other republics default on their payments, the Russian Information Agency (RIA) reported Tuesday [5 November].

RIA, quoting Russian Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Gennadiy Filshin, said that 11 of the 12 republics were preparing to sign an accord on debt repayment with President Mikhail Gorbachev acting as guarantor. "If the republics do not speak a common language in this, Russia is ready to repay all Soviet debt but would then re-examine its relations with other republics," Filshin stated.

His remarks appeared to be a warning that Russia would consider severing some economic links with other republics if they did not shoulder their share of the Soviet foreign debt burden.

Western bankers put the Soviet foreign debt at around 60 billion dollars, but Soviet officials have placed it at as high as 70 billion dollars.

Filshin said Russia would be repaying about 60 percent of the Soviet foreign debt provided the other republics agreed to a proportional repayment plan. He said the proportion of a republic's contribution to foreign debt repayments would be based on a four-point index taking account of the republic's share in Soviet imports, exports, the population of the republic and its overall contribution to Soviet national revenue.

Filshin also called on Western governments and investors to establish direct links with Russia and other republics and asserted that the Russian government was "not interested" in seeing Western loans to the so-called "center," or union-wide bodies.

The Ukraine meanwhile reiterated its opposition to the republics which signed the economic union accord assuming "joint responsibility" for the Soviet foreign debt.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin said the republics should assume a proportional responsibility for the debt but stated that repayments should be made through a single central authority, either the current Soviet foreign trade bank or its successor, and not on an individual basis.

Fokin, quoted by the INTERFAX news agency, said the bank should set up a new council for debt management that would take charge of collecting the funds from republics and reimbursing them to foreign creditors.

Russia To Pay 61 Percent

LD0511234991 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 5 Nov 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russia will pay 61 percent of the USSR's foreign debt, said Gennadiy Filshin, Russian minister of foreign economic ties, in an interview with an RIA correspondent. In the near future leaders of 11 former Union republics will sign an agreement to mutually pay off foreign debt.

Yeltsin Adviser Says Next Year Key to Reform

AU0511213191 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 31 Oct 91 p 3

[Telephone interview with Sergey Shakhray, an adviser to Boris Yeltsin, by Szerdahelyi; place and date not given: "Yeltsin's Advisor Is Not Worried About Power Struggle—One More Year of Russian Patience"]

[Text] According to Sergey Shakhray, there are no alternatives to Boris Yeltsin in Russia today. The fact that Yeltsin's political opponents are forcing conflicts in connection with Gorbachev and that the mayor of St. Petersburg is ready to replace Yeltsin at any time were described as real but foolhardy options by Shakhray, one of the closest advisers to the Russian president. We telephoned Shakhray during the Russian parliament's extraordinary session.

[Szerdahelyi] Yeltsin is asking for one year of patience until economic improvement can begin. What is the basis of this optimism?

[Shakhray] Let us make this proposition more precise! One year is nowhere near enough for progress. It can only be enough for the necessary movement away from the standstill.

[Szerdahelyi] In that case, it is completely impossible to understand optimism that people's patience will last.

[Shakhray] The fact is, this is not a question of optimism. Today there are no alternatives to the very strict economic measures and restrictions that are to be introduced now and to the freedom provided by the market conditions. Of course, for seven decades people were kept under the spell of socialism for the public good,

collectivism reduced the work ethic to nothing, and it is a painful task to climb out of all this today. Being on the verge of economic crisis, we arrived at that climactic moment at the time of introducing perestroyka, but this moment has lasted five years now. If we cannot show any solid results during the next year, we will be finished. We must start privatization; small and medium-sized enterprises have to be operated according to market rules, and we also have to modify wages. In our domestic policy, we must make good use of everything Gorbachev's opening achieved in foreign policy.

[Szerdahelyi] Is all this possible without foreign help?

[Shakhray] No! We need very considerable financial help, and it would not at all have the sole purpose of avoiding starvation in Russia this winter. Politics, however, might invariably play an important role. We will see what price the West demands of us.

[Szerdahelyi] Yeltsin remained silent for a rather long time after the coup in August. Why did he wait so long before he announced the new economic program?

[Shakhray] The situation was unpredictable in the country at the end of August. Then the period came when many people would have forced a Yeltsin-Gorbachev confrontation. We had to work under these circumstances, so we did.

[Szerdahelyi] The so-called power struggle appears to have been decided. What is your opinion about the charge that Yeltsin wants to introduce some kind of dictatorship in Russia?

[Shakhray] There is a tremendous difference between tough policy and dictatorship. Today, our leadership needs someone who knows what he wants and who is accepted. This is why the suggestion that Sobchak, mayor of St. Petersburg, seeks Yeltsin's position is nonsense. There are no alternatives to Yeltsin today, and if he cannot implement his ideas, then many years of agony are ahead. It is naive to ask the country to put up with another year after enduring 70 years, but we cannot do anything else. I hope that we still have enough patience and strength.

Details of Yeltsin Foreign Trade Decree Noted

LD0511173191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] One of the first moves toward radical economic reform in Russia will probably be a presidential decree liberalizing foreign trade in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports today. The draft decree, says the newspaper, envisages introducing convertibility for the ruble, abolition of all its fixed exchange rates, and removal of restrictions on opening foreign currency accounts. Abolition is planned for import and export taxes on all types of goods and services. The Russian Council of Ministers is instructed to repeal the license and quota system on the import and export of all goods, with the exception of a very narrow list. Specialists have welcomed the draft decree and believe that if put into practice, it could provide a serious basis for an influx of long-awaited foreign investment and the beginning of the dreaded commodity intervention, comments NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. True, it is noted that neither one nor the other will ensure an instantaneous improvement in the situation by itself, while making the ruble convertible will lead to rapid devaluation. According the newspaper, the decree has been on Boris Yeltsin's desk for several days and could be signed in the very near future.

Leadership Prepares for 'Extreme Situation'

LD0511184591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1706 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By TASS observer Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow 5 Nov (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his team have a picture of the real situation in the country and know the mood of the masses. Without harboring any illusions, they are embarking on an "operation" in the belief that delaying the reform will only make the situation worse. This was confirmed today in an interview with a TASS observer given by 52-year-old Yuriy Petrov, head of the president's administration.

The Russian leadership, he said, is preparing for the possibility of an extreme situation, and elaborating mechanisms for preventing it. A presidential food reserve is being set up for supplying the major industrial centers, and measures are being elaborated to support those sections of the population enjoying least social protection and to find work for the unemployed. A decision will be made in the immediate future to set up an information sevice under the president's administration. Petrov said that the president has tasked this service with forecasting the effects of each decision taken within the scope of the reform and to provide proposals for adjusting the measures taken and their timescale and for reducing social tension.

The most important thing, in the view of the head of the president's adminstration, lies in "insuring unity of action, unity of the nation, and the unity of all the people of Russia in the fight against the difficulties." For this he considers it essential to rely primarily on democratic forces, parties, movements, and trade unions, and to work out a mechanism of preliminary coordination with them on the most important decisions.

The representative of the president's team believes that now is not the time to criticize the program of reforms presented by Yeltsin. "If we are now going to engage in criticism, this will be a prime gift to the enemies of the reform," Petrov noted.

He has been working in the president's administration since 19 August. Before that he was USSR ambassador to Cuba. He said, however, that he had been well

acquainted with Yeltsin since 1974 through their joint work in Sverdlovsk. It is always difficult to work with Yeltsin, he believes. "He is a man who is out of the ordinary, demanding of both himself and others," Petrov says. "He never raises his voice, but he compels you to work by his discipline, by the way he poses a question."

There is no particular discord in Yeltsin's team, in Petrov's view. "These are the usual working factors, which were complicated by the revolutionary situation", he said.

Yeltsin To Form 'Russian Reform Government'

PM0611102791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Nov 91 Union Edition pp 1-2

[V. Kononenko article: "Who Will Be in the Russian Reform Government?"]

[Text] The slow and exhaustingly inconclusive week-long pause dating back to Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] President Boris Yeltsin's speech at the Congress of People's Deputies seems to be over. According to reports from sources close to the Russian leadership, the president should make his choice on today or immediately after the "revolution" holidays and announce the "team" to implement the already announced economic reforms.

The announcement in the president's speech about price liberalization in Russia came as a shock. As a result stores were stripped within days of their last vestiges of goods, commercial stores were considerably "depleted," and lines of people formed outside savings banks waiting to make withdrawals in the fear that a ruble would soon not be enough for a box of matches. So, judging by everything, **nobody will dare to let prices float this year.** This was the unanimous view of the economists and politicians in the Russian leadership with whom your correspondent spoke. Although the critical state of the economy dictates emergency surgery. As for the "forgotten reforms," they will appear with the emergence of the new Cabinet of Ministers.

A package of presidential decrees has already been drawn up proposing the implementation of "general preparations" for the introduction of free prices. These draft decrees were prepared by different departments and expert groups—both independently and in collaboration with each other. The gist of them is that the new reform government will be instructed to start by stabilizing the ruble and the market. Specifically, it will have to carry out banking reform, regulate the tax system, beef up credit policy, and create a social protection system for the less fortunate.

As Ye. Saburov, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers and minister of economics, put it, an interrepublic group is currently working to set up an interstate emissions bank for the ruble area. Russia's position on this issue is firm: Since the bank will be a joint-stock organization, the decisive role should be played by capital. In other words, Russia should have two-thirds of the votes on the bank board. If the partners disagree Russia will act independently.

The tax system should be beefed up or there will be a threat of complete budgetary collapse. At present barely half of all taxes are being paid. It is planned to substantially raise interest rates in order to ensure that the market is not swamped by colossal sums of money. Simultaneously, judging by the reform concept, it is planned to expedite privatization. The minister of economics stated that privatization should be implemented by commercial structures. "The state is not capable of this gigantic undertaking," he said. "It will take around 1.5 billion rubles [R] a year—which the budget does not have—and the result could be ugly, given the huge scale of the work and the bureaucracy in various components of the executive structure." The scheme proposed by his department is as follows: It will announce a competition to create around 200 innovation companies (funded via the stock market) with incorporation capital of not less than R20 million, and will issue privatization checks. The Committee for State Property together with administration representatives at local level will determine a baseline value for certain buildings, and commercial structures will be tasked with staging the auctions. It is not being ruled out that the first auctions could be held as early as December. It is initially planned to privatize around 10 percent of all industrial enterprises and trading and services outfits. In order to ensure that each of us potential owners can find our feet amid the complexities of the business world, the authorities are promising to publish the necessary information and explanations—something along the lines of privatization lessons for the population.

Now the question concerning everyone: What is the timetable for the "general preparations," which will be followed by price liberalization? On the basis of the incredible complexity of these measures, my contacts in the White House believe that it will take not less than two or three months (provided the preventive measures are observed). Consequently, **we will not see free prices before next January,** and economists estimate that their maximum growth will not exceed 200-300 percent. Everyone considers the current forecasts of a 900-1,400-percent increase to be absurd since there will not be enough spare money around.

Nonetheless, there are several factors which could influence the above provisional liberalization timetable. One of the most important is—which team will be charged with carrying out the reforms? The most promising route would be the draft structure submitted by a group of economists currently working at a government dacha on instructions from RSFSR State Secretary G. Burbulis. The document broadly looks as follows: At the top of the pyramid is the president (who is also head of the cabinet). Then come the state secretary, the economic and

political blocs of the ministries—headed by state ministers—the bloc of departments headed by the state minister for social policy, and the bloc of control services under the "supervision" of Vice President A.V. Rutskoy (this refers to the national guard, the customs service, the emergencies committee, etc.).

It is not ruled out that a new organ—a State Council comprising a state secretary and state ministers—will be set up. The presidential consultative council will be revived, but the key role in the cabinet will undoubtedly be played by the state minister for economics (or for economic reform), who will have some of the prime minister's functions (for instance, the right to sign government resolutions).

The choice of candidates for the post of state minister for economics could naturally have a major impact on results because of the different views of the implementation of reform. According to information obtained from the above sources, four candidates with their own groups—namely, G. Yavlinskiy, Ye. Saburov, Yu. Skokov, and Ye. Gaydar—could stake a claim to this key role in the new government. The people I spoke to claim that the president is studying the possibility of synthesizing these options, but each candidate will most probably proceed on the basis that the core of the economic group should consist solely of his people.

We are obviously facing a situation similar to that which M. Gorbachev faced after the publication of the "500 Days" program. At the time the USSR president, in an attempt to win the support of Staraya Ploshchad [CPSU Central Committee], created a similar synthesis of incompatible programs in the form of basic guidelines. The result, as is well known, was pitiful. B. Yeltsin, who probably does not want to tie himself completely to one grouping, would now like to get all the gold dust in one pan and pick out the nuggets—irrespective of their quality.

We will not have to wait long. It is the Russian president's right to appoint his "team," and his supreme responsibility is not to make a mistake at this trying time.

Silayev on Independence, Economic Agreement

PM0511155691 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No. 42, 20-27 Oct 91 p 7

[Interview with Ivan Silayev by Lyudmila Telen; place and date not given: "Yevgeniy Saburov Stays. Who Quits?"]

[Text] The resignation of Russia's Minister of the Economy following the government scandal was not accepted by the President. Will Boris Yeltsin seek the resignation of those who almost aborted the signing of the economic agreement instead? This and other questions from MN were answered by Ivan Silayev in an interview he gave Lyudmila Telen during an intermission in the State Council session.

[Telen] What is your opinion of the idea of Russia's independence?

[Silayev] This is a right every republic is entitled to, and Russia can exercise this right any time she chooses. However, absolute sovereignty is a non-existent phenomenon, as world experience shows. Both large and small countries have no integrate themselves into the world community, to a greater or lesser degree, as the situation demands. Naturally, they have to accept certain limitations of their independence, primarily in the sphere of the economy.

[Telen] Do you believe that Russia's leaders will be able to fully realize this necessity?

[Silayev] Yeltsin's signature under the economic agreement justifies optimistic forecasts.

[Telen] But this outcome was preceded by heated debates in the Cabinet of Ministers.

[Silayev] True. What happened in the government in the absence of the President is bitterly disappointing. Certain strata of Russia's leadership tried to impose upon the President—while he was absent and unaware of it—a position which he never chose himself. Fortunately, Yeltsin took a firm stand and didn't budge from his position, which he formulated for the sake of myself and Saburov when we visited him in Sochi.

[Telen] Will Russia's parliament ratify the agreement?

[Silayev] I believe so. The hearings have revealed that the Supreme Soviet sticks to a sensible viewpoint and won't allow distortions or the groundless accusations against the masterminds of the agreement which have been voiced at the Council of Ministers' session.

[Telen] Do you admit that the Cabinet may resign as a result of this denouncement?

[Silayev] The decision will be up to the President. I'm sure he will make the right choice.

Yeltsin Seeks 'Democratic Russia' Support

LD0511235291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Nov 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] It looks as though Russian President Boris Yeltsin is seeking support from representatives of the Democratic Russia movement. The subject of forming the Russian Government was discussed at his meeting today with representatives of the movement's parliamentary group. One more meeting is expected once the list of government members is ready.

Council Accepts Tuva's Border Proposal

OW0411165191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers has accepted the proposal of the government of Tuva, a republic in eastern Siberia, that two international traffic checkpoints, Khandagaity and Tsagan-Talagoy, be opened at the Soviet Union's border with Mongolia. The RSFSR Foreign Ministry was instructed to discuss the matter with Mongolian negotiators in the presence of borderguard and customs officials.

Chief Editor Comments on Freedom of Press

PM0511110191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Nov 91 pp 1, 3

[Interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA Chief Editor Vitaliy Tretyakov by Viktor Kozhemyako under "Let's Talk About the Press" rubric; place and date not given; "Press Ministry Reaches for the Birch"; first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] On 29 October NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA Chief Editor Vitaliy Tretyakov published an article entitled "Press Freedom Already Hindered." The subtitle of that article also sounds alarming: "The Russian Ministry of the Press and Mass Information Accuses NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA of Committing Crimes, While All-Union Television, Distorting the Facts, Ascribes a 'Provocative' Nature to a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA Feature." All this was occasioned by an interview with Konstantin Masik, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers, printed in the newspaper. The serious accusations against NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA elicited a no less serious protest from its chief editor, to whom I addressed my questions.

Three Questions to Vitaliy Tretyakov

[Kozhemyako] So the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Ministry of the Press and Mass Information perceived your feature as propaganda of war and interethnic strife. You were given an official warning, which means that if you get anothe one in a year, the newspaper is threatened with closure. You have demanded an immediate and public apology from the ministry, the dissemination of corresponding information via RIA channels, and the publication of a denial in the same place in KURANTY and in other publications which carried the report denigrating NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. The question has also been raised of a denial on the All-Union Television programs which also accused you of a provocation. What reaction has there been to this statement of yours?

[Tretyakov] So far none at all, you might say. True, I took advantage of my acquaintance with Lyubimov of the "ViD" television program to contact him and ask to be given airtime for a denial. He promised. Yegor Vladimirovich Yakovlev, leader of the All-Union Television and Radio Company, has been sent our letter demanding a denial in the news program which begins at 2100. I know that Yakovlev himself is not in Moscow now, but his deputies are. Alas, they are staying silent.

As for the ministry, we have sent it a letter with the relevant demands. This is in addition to my article in the newspaper, but there has not been a response yet. Rumors have reached us from unverified sources that, supposedly, neither [RSFSR Press Minister] Poltoranin nor any of his deputies has signed an official warning against us. Strange! They have not signed it, but this warning has gone out over RIA channels and KURANTY has published it. In any case such a thing is totally incomprehensible to me.

Whichever way you look at it, in my opinion this is an obvious attempt to limit freedom of the press and a desire to discredit or even punish journalists of the independent press who honestly carry out their professional duty. Note: We are talking not about an article but about an interview—an interview with one of the Ukraine's most responsible leaders. Our observer merely reproduced his words, and there have been no representations or denials from the Ukrainian side. Of what can they possibly accuse the newspaper?

[Kozhemyako] What is your opinion of the status of freedom of the press today?

[Tretyakov] Before the putsch, whether or not someone liked this, many publications were directed by certain official organs, and each editorial board had to make a difficult choice between glasnost and press freedom. Now everyone's hands have been untied, but the choice remains.

I personally favor press freedom. This is well known in theory, and so I will not speak in platitudes. The most valuable of the many confused and chaotic things that perestroyka brought with it is undoubtedly glasnost, which develops into freedom of the press. Party and nonparty, left-wing and right-wing, independent, whatever you like—all publications together create the possibility of correcting our leaders' erroneous policy. It can be corrected in different ways—ranging from demonstrations and rallies to revolts—but the most civilized method is still the press. It is called the fourth estate because it is capable of influencing politicians' mistakes in time. There are four or five years between one election and the next, but here a life jacket is thrown instantly.

[Kozhemyako] Do you feel any anxiety about the future of press freedom?

[Tretyakov] Undoubtedly. There are grounds for this, and the conflict between NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA and the Russian ministry is one of these grounds.

The indicators of power always include the attitude toward newspapers which espouse their own opinion. If even the slightest offensive against the press begins, this is a bad sign. Of course, a certain conflict between the press and power always exists, but this is, so to speak, position warfare; an imperious offensive is quite another matter. Some people reach for a gun, while others wish to punish the press, for they see journalists as being to blame for all problems.

I will do everything to ensure that our newspaper does not suffer because of such absurd accusations, and I hope that the Russian authorities will have sufficient common sense to take a sensible attitude toward the problems of the press. In any case it should be remembered: First freedom of the press is destroyed, and then those who shattered it are.

IZVESTIYA on 3 Nov Military Parade

92P50024A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Oct 91 Union Edition p 1

["Agencies Column" report]

[Text] A November holiday with a military-historical parade will still take place in Moscow in a few days, but the occasion for this is uncustomary: the 270th anniversary of the Peace of Nysted, the ending of the Northern War (1700-1721), and the foundation of the Russian Empire.

As planned by the "Young Russia" society, the Military-Historical Union, soldiers, reserves, veterans, and young recruits will all take part in a celebratory parade on 3 November to commemorate these events.

Local Affairs

Chechen Official on Election of Dzhakhar Dudayev

LD3010220891 Moscow TASS in English 1355 GMT 30 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondents Sharip Asuyev and Aleksander Kharchenko]

[Text] Groznyy October 30 TASS—"Whatever one says, the election of a president of the Chechen Republic has been held. This is an accomplished fact," Salman Kerimov, secretary of the Central Electoral Commission, told TASS.

According to preliminary data, Dzhakhar Dudayev has been elected the first president of the Chechen Republic, he said. "We already know that the polling involved more than 470,000 out of 640,000 people with the right to vote.

"About 420,000 expressed support for Dudayev who is the chairman of the executive committee of the National Congress of the Chechen people. Absolutely exact data will be made public in several hours' time," Kerimov said.

"The atmosphere in Groznyy today remains calm on the whole. But it cannot be said that the post-election situation has eased. The opposition continues to hold meetings on the Sheikh Mansur Square and, according to unconfirmed data, is arming its supporters.

"Therefore we do not dissolve the National Guard," a spokesman at the defence committee of the Chechen Congress Executive, told journalists.

Representatives of Georgia, Estonia, and foreign correspondents, who monitored last Sunday's polling to elect a president and parliament of the Chechen Republic, officially stated today that they did not detect any electoral irregularities.

'Confusion' Follows Elections

PM0411124891 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[Ali Kazikhanov report: "Winners Confused"]

[Text] Groznyy—In an address to the peoples, the Chechen-Ingush Provisional Supreme Council has declared the elections held in the Chechen Republic illegal.

Independent observers are noting that despite its election victory the All-National Chechen Congress Executive Committee is showing signs of a certain amount of confusion: The winners are calling for the intelligentsia and the government to unite to help organize economic management, but all their suggestions have been rejected. At an opposition rally S. Bekov, chairman of the Chechen-Ingush Council of Ministers, stated that the government does not recognize the elections and will not relinquish its powers to the illegal Chechen Republic parliament.

During the 27 October elections Islamic fundamentalists were present for the first time. They consider D. Dudayev to be on the road to establishing in the Chechen-Ingush Republic an Islamic theocratic republic along the lines of Khomeyni's Iran. It is curious that the All-National Chechen Congress Executive Committee's National Guard is headed by one of the leaders of the fundamentalist "Islamic Way" party who, according to a journalist who wished to remain anonymous, recently stated that the party is moving to the positions of the "Muslim Brotherhood" international organization. This alarms not only D. Dudayev's supporters but the opposition too. The Chechen-Ingush Provisional Supreme Council and the movement "For the Unity of Chechen-Ingushetia" are continuing to set up a people's militia.

Opposition Demands New Elections

LD0111232991 Moscow TASS in English 1654 GMT 1 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondents Sharip Asuyev and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Groznyy November 1 TASS—A new election campaign started in the Chechen-Ingush region today. If it succeeds this North Caucasian republic may find itself with two parliaments.

After supporters of the Executive Committee of the National Congress of the Chechen people elected their president and members of the parliament of the Chechen Republic, their political opponents began nominating their own candidates to the Supreme Council of the Chechen-Ingush Republic.

The local feuding political forces are clearly averse to reconciliation. The Provisional Supreme Council and the president of the Chechen Republic, Dzhakhar Dudayev, will not recognise the opposition's right to hold the new elections scheduled for November 17.

Chechens Refuse To Follow Dudayev

LD0411090291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] In Chechen-Ingush, a number of Chechens are refusing to obey General Dudayev, who was elected republic president at the end of October. Self-defense units are being formed in Groznyy and other towns as a counterweight to the pro-Dudayev National Guard.

Dudayev Issues First Decree

LD0411183891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1730 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Unidentified correspondent's report from Groznyy]

[Text] The first decree of Dzhakhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic, has been issued. It states: Guided by the declaration of the republic's state sovereignty and the will of the people manifested in a direct and general election, the state sovereignty of the Chechen Republic is declared as of 1 November 1991.

The first sitting of the Parliament of the Chechen Republic—which lasted almost 48 hours without a break—ended today at 1100. (Husseyn Akhmatov), well-known in Chechen-Ingush as deputy chairman of the Executive Committee of the Chechen Congress and as chairman of the Interim Supreme Council in its former composition, was elected chairman of the parliament. The decisions and other documents of the parliament's first sitting will be published in the press tomorrow.

According to a TASS correspondent in Groznyy, the Chechen-Ingush Supreme Council cannot accept that a president and parliament of the Chechen Republic have been elected. The election of people's deputies and the referendum scheduled by the Interim Council are to be held, not on 17 November as previously announced, but on 8 December.

People Called To Support Dudayev

PM0611113791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Nov 91 pp 1, 3

[Correspondent V. Kharlamov report under the "From the Hot Spots" rubric: "Checheno-Ingushetia: Whom the Terek Divides"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At the moment all warring sides in the republic have one thing in common—all contentious issues should be resolved without interference from Moscow. Even Akhmet Arsanov, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] presidential representative in Chechen-Ingush, who, incidentally, is from a family of religious authorities—he is the grandson of the revered Shayk Deni—believes so:

"It is of course an honor and a responsibility to be the Russian president's representative, but in resolving narrowly ethnic issues we ourselves will choose."

On this position unity is coming to an end. Russia has managed to achieve the main thing—it has established an opposition to the executive committee of the All-National Chechen Congress. For the time being it is indisputable that Dzhakhar Dudayev has the strength, armed strength, but the Provisional Supreme Council headed by Bakhmadov and Russian presidential representative Arsanov are also picking up points and are setting up their own armed militia.

The situation is becoming increasingly like the "Georgian variant." There is one other thing that Dzhakhar Dudayev can do—rally the people of the Caucasus around him under the banner of a fight against "imperial Russia." Today this process is gathering steam. Abkhazia, Dagestan, and Kabardino-Balkaria have declared their support for Dudayev. Chechenia's [Chechnya] "great friend" Zviad Gamsakhurdia is also prepared to provide assistance.

"Chechenia and Ingushetia are the heart of the Caucasus," President D. Dudayev believes. "We should realize that if we merely gain freedom, independence, and rights within our own republic, this will just be a tempest in a teacup."

It is natural that this position could scare not just Russia but also a significant part of Checheno-Ingushetia's population.

The recent presidential and parliamentary elections, which were declared illegal and unconstitutional by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and the Provisional Supreme Council of the Chechen-Ingush Republic, were evidence of this. I shall be objective—they did not take place under submachine-gun barrels, as some people have tried to represent them. While respecting Dzhakhar

Dudayev as a person, I nevertheless doubt the conclusions of the Central Electoral Commission, which announced that almost 90 percent of Chechens turned up at the polling places. This was not so! Those who turned up did indeed vote for Dudayev, but in fact fewer than half the voters showed.

Yes, the republic has come this far with pretty lamentable results. In the Russian Federation it comes at the bottom for provision of children's institutions and public health organizations and at the top for infant mortality rate. Groznyy is among the five most ecologically harmful industrial centers, and almost half the population lives below the poverty line. Split into several irreconcilable camps, this republic has forgotten its principal woes and is concentrating on rallies and shootings instead. [passage omitted]

Chechen Parliament Meets, Holds Elections 27 Oct

Elects Akhmadov Chairman

LD0311124191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1952 GMT 2 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondents Sharip Asuyev and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Groznyy, 2 Nov (TASS)—A 40-year-old history teacher Khusain Akhmadov was elected chairman of the parliament of the Chechen Republic at the first sitting of this legislative body which opened in Groznyy. Parliamentary elections were held on 27 October.

A resolution from a mass meeting of Ingush people, which was held in Nazrani today, was read at the sitting. The Ingush support the election of the president and parliament of the Chechen Republic and refuse to participate in new elections proposed by the opposition and scheduled for 17 November, the resolution says.

During an evening sitting the deputies of the Chechen Republic intend to discuss a number of bills and resolutions, including on the activity of the parliament, the president, the dissolution of armed formations, and the creation of a legalized national guard.

Local television journalists have gone on strike and did not cover the first day of the parliament's work.

Adopts Chechen, Russian Languages

OW0411131891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1140 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On November 4, the parliament of the Chechen Republic, elected on October 27 on the initiative of the Executive Committee of the National Congress of the Chechen people, continued its work in Groznyy (Chechen-Ingushetia).

Previously, the parliament had adopted more than a dozen resolutions, including the ones on the republic's national languages. The parliament had resolved that these languages be Chechen and Russian.

On Saturday [2 November], the parliament elected its chairman, Hussain Akhmadov, and also the chairmen of the permanent parliamentary commissions on defence and national security, and on legislation.

The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation has qualified the parliamentary elections in the republic, as well as the election of the republic's president ex-General Dzhakhar Dudayev as illegal.

Abolishes KGB

OW0511140091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliament of the Republic of Chechen-Ingushetia declared on November 4th, during the third day in session in Groznyy, that the KGB of the republic was abolished. According to the declaration, a republican national security service will be created to replace the KGB.

The session also reinforced the decree by president Dzhakhar Dudayev, "on the state sovereignty of the Chechen Republic." The decree went into effect as of November lst.

On October 27th elections were held for the parliament of the republic initiated by the executive committee of the Chechen National Congress [CNC]. On the same day the CNC leader D. Dudayev, a retired Air Force general, was elected president of the republic.

The Russian Supreme Soviet has declared both the presidential and parliamentary elections in the Chechen Republic to be unlawful.

Nationalizes Property

OW0511151791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliamentary session in Chechen-Ingushetia continues for the fourth day running. On Monday [4 November] the parliament ruled to reform the Council of Ministers of the Chechen-Ingush Republic into the Cabinet of Ministers of the Chechen Republic, and passed a resolution on the nationalization of all property on Chechen territory. The industrial plant head-managers were instructed however to continue to fulfill contract orders. The parliamentary session is proceeding in the building of the Council of Ministers which according to its president, does not recognize the Chechen parliament.

A grand popular assembly in Ingushetia has decided to hold presidential and parliamentary elections in the Ingush Republic on December 22.

In the meantime, the still operative provisional Supreme Council of the Chechen-Ingush Republic has declared all unlawful resolutions null and void and ruled to postpone the parliamentary elections and referendum scheduled in Checheno-Ingushetia for November 17 until December 8. The initial date was agreed upon during the recent talks with the head of the RSFSR parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov.

IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent reports that most of the local electorate, tired of confrontation and chaos, have fallen into a state of apathy.

Bans Supreme Council Activity

LD0511214391 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The Chechen republican parliament, elected on 27 November [as heard], is a permanently functioning body of legislative power. Our correspondent reports that the first decisions of the new parliament were made public today. So the presidential decree on the state sovereignty of the Chechen Republic, the state flag, the coat of arms, and the anthem of the Chechen Republic were approved. The Chechen and Russian languages were recognized as official languages on the territory of the republic.

By a special resolution, the activity of the Interim Supreme Council is prohibited on the territory of the republic and is illegal; it is viewed as aiming to fuel national disputes, with the goal of overthrowing the president and the parliament, which were legally elected by the people.

Rally Held To Retain Chechen-Ingush Republic

LD0111230491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 30 Oct 91

[Text] A rally in favor of preserving the Chechen-Ingush Republic took place on Mansur Square in Groznyy yesterday. According to the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs, about 4,000 people participated.

The elections of the president and parliament of the Chechen Republic, which were held on 27 October, are legal and their results are valid. This was stated in a decision adopted by a joint session of the executive committee of the pan-national congress of the Chechen people and members of the parliament, the Council of Elders, representatives of clergy, public, and political parties, and movements and societies of the Chechen Republic.

The Ingush people did not take part in the elections on 27 October. As for the election of retired General Dzhakhar Dudayev as the head of the Chechen Republic, we do not recognize it, (Magomet Mamilov), deputy chairman of the People's Soviet of Ingushetia, stated in a conversation with an INTERFAX correspondent on today.

Ingush Leader on Seizing Part of Vladikavkaz

PM0111214191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Nov 91 First Edition p 2

[Item from column of TASS, RIA, and correspondent reports: "New Hotbed of Tension Could Flare Up in Ingushetia"]

[Text] "The formation of a Chechen Republic outside Russia undermines Ingush interests. The absence of industry and scientific and cultural centers in the area places us in a catastrophic situation as the transition to the market looms," Issa Kodzoyev, chairman of the Executive Committee of People's Deputies of Ingushetia, stated on learning of General Dudayev's victory in the elections organized by the All-National Chechen Congress Executive Committee. He stressed that the only option left for the Ingush is to openly seize the right-bank of Vladikavkaz in North Ossetia. "We know that we will be accused of bloodshed and violence," Kodzoyev said, "but the Russian Supreme Soviet's indecisiveness in implementing the law 'On Rehabilitating Repressed Peoples' leaves us no choice."

Chechen-Ingush Interior Ministry Issues Appeal

LD0311121991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1733 GMT 2 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondents Sharip Asuyev and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Groznyy, 2 Nov (TASS)—An appeal to the Council of Elders, the local priesthood, public movements, and to all citizens of Checheno-Ingushetia has been approved at an expanded sitting of the personnel of the republican Ministry of Internal Affairs.

It says, in particular: "We stand on the brink of a civil war, unthinkable in the history of the Chechen and Ingush peoples. The abyss dividing the confronting forces will lead inevitably to the meaningless death of our people and to a national catastrophe."

The document stresses that internal affairs bodies have been confronted with an unthinkable increase in crime, and that there have been incidences of gross interference in the activity of internal affairs bodies by armed groups with provocative aims. In this situation law enforcement bodies are not able to fully solve the task of strengthening the order and protecting the rights and legal interests of citizens of the Republic.

The executive committee of the united congress of the Chechen people, which originally stood for the progressive position of uniting the Chechens and Ingush, has betrayed its ideals and embraced the nationalist views of the Vaynakh democratic party and its leaders, the appeal

says. Confrontation has become aggravated, and catastrophe is imminent. "For the sake of preserving peace in our small homeland, do not be indifferent to its destiny. Remember that Vaynakhs have always resolved the most burning national problems and have compromised, seeking mutual understanding," employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs appealed.

Chechen-Ingush Protests Georgian 'Interference'

LD0511164591 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1500 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The committee for the preservation and unity of the Chechen-Ingush Republic, which is based in Groznyy, has appealed to the Georgian people not to interfere in the internal affairs of Checheno-Ingushetia. The appeal to the people of Georgia and to all democratic parties, sociopolitical movements, and organizations states that the interference in the republic's internal affairs by President Gamsakhurdia and his emissaries is causing discord and confrontation in the republic.

Kalmykia Presidential Candidates Lack Votes

LD0411121491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0943 GMT 4 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Pavel Shamrayev]

[Text] Elista, 4 Nov (TASS)—Neither of the two candidates for the post of first president of Kalmykia succeeded in gaining the necessary number of electorate votes during the second round of elections which took place on 3 November. According to preliminary results announced by the Electoral Commission of this republic within Russia, 45.3 percent of the electorate voted in favor of Batyr Mikhailov, current chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers, and 40.37 percent for Vladimir Basanov, chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet. At the next Kalmyk Supreme Soviet session, deputies will resolve the issue of whether to hold a repeat ballot or to consider it inexpedient.

Koryaksky Breaks From Kamchatka Region

LD0211151191 Moscow TASS in English 1108 GMT 2 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Borovkov]

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky November 2 TASS—The Kamchatka Peninsula has split into two unequal parts for the first time in its history: a session of the Koryaksky District Council decided to break away from the region and declared the district the Koryaksky Republic within the Russian Federation.

The event drew mixed reaction among the residents of the peninsula. TASS asked Sergei Leushkin, chairman of the executive committee and member of the district council presidium, to comment on the situation. "The decision is explained by the living standards in the district, which have plunged dramatically in recent years. The territory is in degradation: our villages and settlements are vanished in dozens or fall into decay. The people, who populate the area, which is rich in raw material resources—fish, fur-bearing animals, coal, gold and oil—actually do not get any return, any funds to develop efficiently the district's economy.

"A year ago, we proclaimed a republic, but remained part of the region. It is now clear to us that full sovereignty in relations with the region is needed for normal development and movement forward. We should stop waiting for sops and depending on the supply of products, spare parts and fuel to us. Especially since virtually all economic managers, with whom we are bound by contracts, said nothing would change for them following this decision. They said they would continue to work with us as previously, with the only exception that there is no longer any regional transhipment base."

Unlike Leushkin, managers of the Kamchatka region are seriously worried about the situation. Pyotr Premyak, chairman of the regional council, and Vladimir Biryukov, chairman of the regional executive committee, issued an appeal to the residents of the peninsula, describing the break-out as the consequence of the short-sighted policy pursued by a group of persons. The appeal says "this is a political mistake that only complicates the existing problems still more. We are conviced the district cannot independently ensure the social protection of the population for the present."

The appeal emphasises this act does not reflect the opinion of the indigenous population (it makes up a quarter of the territory's population). Premyak and Biryukov refer to the findings of the poll conducted on June 12, 1991, which showed that over 70 per cent of the residents oppose the district's break away from the region.

Rationing of Bread, Other Staples in Moscow

LD0611100791 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] In Moscow, bread, meat, sausage, eggs, butter, and vegetable oil will be rationed starting with the first of next month. This was announced by the city Mayor Gavriil Popov in his television appearance last evening. He said that all these products will also be sold freely in 300 specialized shops at commercial prices. The mayor stressed especially that those will not yet be free market prices. There was no rationing of food in Moscow since 1947. Lately only sugar, vodka, cigarettes, and tobacco were rationed. After President Yeltsin announced plans to liberalize prices last week, the residents of Moscow have bought up all food products in the stores. There are now even difficulties with buying bread and milk.

Moscow, Moscow Region To Become One District

OW0411134391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1140 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In accordance with the decree of the Russian Federation's president, documents are being drafted on turning Moscow and the Moscow region into one district.

A few days ago, the Centre for Socio-Strategic Studies completed a report on socio-economic consequences and possible variants of uniting Moscow and the Moscow region. The report is being actively discussed by the Moscow regional and Moscow city soviets and will undoubtedly have a strong impact on the final decision concerning the future of Moscow and the Moscow region.

Since 1917, the map of Moscow has been re-drafted on many occasions, mostly for political reasons. The current need in a reform has arisen because the objective laws of development impel Moscow to transfer its industrial enterprises to the suburbs.

The Centre for Socio-Strategic Studies has proposed various ways of dealing with the problem, including the turning of this territory into a megalopolis, which coordinates well with the system of local government. The development of local municipal bodies in combination with centralised supplies is expected to provide the best scenario amid the ongoing radical reform in the Russian Federation.

Additional information is available at the Centre for Socio-Strategic Studies Tel 237-81-39.

Moscow Soviet Aide on City Hall 'Duel'

PM0411120591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Oct 91 p2

[Interview with Yuriy P. Sedykh-Bondarenko, deputy chairman of Moscow Soviet, by correspondent T. Smirnova in Moscow; date not given; "City Hall Challenges Moscow Soviet to a Duel"; first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Walk along the streets of Moscow and look into people's faces... We all have a pinched, defensive look about us: We are preparing for winter and thinking seriously about our survival. The gloomy face of the capital certainly does not dispose one to enthusiasm. Although nature is trying to cheer it up by draping remnants of crimson lace on the trees, its contrivances are in vain. We do not have time for melancholy musing. Our heads are full of more prosaic matters: Where can we get a sack of potatoes and how are we going to dispose of our sugar coupons for August?

Why do Muscovites feel they have been cast to the winds of fate? What are the people in charge of the city doing—the people for whom we recently voted? This was the subject of a conversation between your PRAVDA correspondent and Yu. P. Sedykh-Bondarenko, deputy chairman of Moscow Soviet.

[Smirnova] First we are threatened with hunger, then with cold, but the city authorities are apparently engrossed in internecine wars instead of tackling our extremely urgent social problems. What is going on in the capital, Yuriy Petrovich?

[Sedykh-Bondarenko] The conflict between city hall and Moscow Soviet is now clear to everyone. There is antagonism between the executive structures and representative bodies of authority. The first clash was when the mayor proposed to change the system for dividing the city into administrative districts, although he is not empowered to do so. The situation was resolved at a session of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet Presidium. The resolution it adopted allows the city soviet to form its own structures of representative power—in other words, to essentially retain rayon soviets as legally elected bodies—and city hall to form its own structures of executive power.

[Smirnova] City hall has now published instructions to form eight territorial administrations in the center of Moscow. What do you have to say about this?

[Sedykh-Bondarenko] There is still no legislation to define such concepts as city hall, the prefecture, and the municipal council, or the status and powers of the corresponding officials. Even the mayor's election was in breach of the regulations approved by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. They clearly state that, if there is even one breach of regulations, the elections will be deemed invalid. In our opinion, they were breached on approximately 10 counts...

[Smirnova] But the elections were considered valid.

[Sedykh-Bondarenko] Yes. Although all this should be regulated by the law alone and not by a Supreme Soviet Presidium resolution.

[Smirnova] For all that, the mayor's election is a fait accompli. What is the attitude of city hall toward the soviets of people's deputies at city and rayon level?

[Sedykh-Bondarenko] Its attitude is crystal clear: Popov is openly waging war on rayon soviets and Moscow City Soviet.

[Smirnova] To use the language of the duel: He has thrown down the gauntlet?

[Sedykh-Bondarenko] Yes, he has. Although N. Gonchar, chairman of Moscow Soviet, is trying to smooth over the tension as much as possible—according to him, nothing terrible is going on and we are seeking common solutions to various problems—the conflict is nevertheless getting worse. It has reached the stage where Gavriil Kharitonovich [Popov] feels it necessary to bring out a large number of Muscovites into the square, which is what happened 25 September.

[Smirnova] So city hall is bent on driving away the soviets?

[Sedykh-Bondarenko] I would say it is trying to break them up rather than drive them away. Popov is trying—and by no means unsuccessfully—to persuade some deputies to join city hall. In his numerous newspaper and television interviews he constantly says that a place will be found for all deputies. Aware that Gavriil Kharitonovich now has unlimited power, some deputies are pinning their hopes on him and giving up their mandates, especially as he is offering strong material incentives.

[Smirnova] Does Moscow Soviet work independently of city hall?

[Sedykh-Bondarenko] Throughout the civilized world it is accepted practice to divide power between legislature, executive, and judiciary. The situation in the capital is unusual because executive structures are trying to deprive bodies of state authority, i.e. the soviets, of their powers. Reference is made to the well-known RSFSR presidential decree of 30 July 1991. I have deep respect for Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and have had to defend him against attack in the past, but I would like to say that no one—not even the president—is permitted to break the law. The basic principle of the soviets is proclaimed by the Constitution, and the law must be implemented until it is abolished.

I always quote the 19th century British politician William Pitt the Younger: "Tyranny begins where the law ends." We have tyranny and can feel its full effect. We are witnessing a total disregard for the law in our city.

[Smirnova] I feel you are deliberately exaggerating in the heat of the battle...

[Sedykh-Bondarenko] Certainly not! I would like to underline one fundamental point: Moscow Soviet is not opposed to city hall—it is opposed to lawlessness. It is not a war of laws, as the modern expression goes, but a war against lawlessness. There are plenty of examples. Everyone has heard the story about General Komissarov's appointment as head of the Moscow militia. The mayor needed his own man, so he pushed through Murashev's nomination without the approval of the Moscow Soviet session. Or take another very serious problem: the privatization of housing. City hall and the city soviet have each prepared independent draft documents. But whereas many Moscow Soviet deputies feel that the decision should not be rushed (because we are capable of such follies!), the Moscow vice mayor has already signed a resolution to begin privatization. This step could have unpredictable and—most important of all—irreversible consequences.

[Smirnova] The protracted conflict into which Moscow Soviet and city hall have been drawn is exhausting for both sides. But the capital's inhabitants suffer most of all, of course. There is no order in the city and life in Moscow is becoming intolerable. How can this antagonism be ended?

[Sedykh-Bondarenko] You are right, the interests of 9 million people cannot be sacrificed for anyone. The authorities must serve the people. The conflict could be ended by adopting a law on Moscow's status as soon as possible.

Instead of an epilogue, there now follows an extract from the minutes of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session "On Some Questions of the City of Moscow's Legal Status": Moscow City Soviet and the mayor of Moscow are advised to refrain from adopting decisions predetermining the regulation of Moscow's legal status before the adoption of an RSFSR law on the capital's status and on the structure and powers of bodies of authority and administration in the city of Moscow.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet

Moskovskaya Tribuna Members Grill Popov

PM0511155491 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No. 42, 20-27 Oct 91 p 7

[Nataliya Davidova report: "Mayor of Moscow Grilled by His Fellow Democrats"]

[Text] One Moscow newspaper carried views of the city Mayor Gavriil Popov on what this country expects of him. He said he would discuss what expects Moscow a bit later. Members of the public movement Moskovskaya Tribuna (MT), founded by Andrey Sakharov among other people, did not want to wait till then and met with the mayor in his new headquarters vacated by the disbanded COMECON [CEMA].

The opening address was made by Andrey Nuykin, an author and one of the MT chairmen. He urged us toward measures, as radical as those of the frustrated coup attempt to avoid a new crisis. Then the mayor spoke.

Gavriil Popov analyzed the current situation and the balance of political forces, and spoke of the future of the Union and Russia. He said that a profascist bloc could take the centre stage if the democratic forces fail to unite and carry through a set of reforms.

An interruption from the floor: "Why do you stall economic reforms, Popov, if you are pro-market?"

Popov's response: "Let's take privatization of housing, for example. Had I not violated the democratic traditions and failed to order the privatization, debates would have gone on much longer. They ask me why I want more power. After one year as head of the Moscow City Council I knew I didn't accomplish anything and would not be likely to. I was either to quit or receive the power necessary to carry out some programme."

A voice from the floor: "There has been no real action since you became mayor. You promised to privatize trade..."

Popov: "Trade can't be privatized bit by bit. There are four problems to be solved, and their solution does not always depend on us. Prices should be freed. There should be a normal system of taxes, a free wholesale market, convertible money."

Yakov Berger of the Academy of Sciences: "Don't you think your actions help the system you used to criticize so harshly to continue?"

Popov said the system was doomed. Does he do the best that can be done? As a politician, he is obliged to take account of the balance of forces, votes and many other things. As an economist and theorist he knows it was wrong to set the top price of meat on the market last year at 15 rubles a kilo. No ruler has ever succeeded in recent millennia to control market prices. He yielded to the popular demand just to show how wrong the people were.

Journalist Yuriy Shchekochikhin: "I know why you need more power. I don't quite see why you wanted to take over the COMECON headquarters, the Lenin Museum and some other buildings in Moscow. Your office contains a colossal number of bureaucrats. It is a veritable communist party regional committee and even worse. People can't get through to you in there. Projects get buried forever in your office."

Popov: "Had I not stated that the Lenin Museum was to be taken over by us that evening, it would have been stormed by next morning. As for the COMECON building, my office will rent out most of it at the rate of 700 dollars (or 30,000 roubles) a square metre. As for bureaucrats being replaced by democrats, bureaucrats are more efficient: at least they do not lose their papers."

Actor Sergey Yurshiy. He had spent several days in the queues in the housing privatization bureaus. People are charged 500 rubles and nobody tells them why. Many people in Moscow think everyone of them will be dragooned into privatizing their housing. What alternative agencies will see to their housing and utilities repairs? People are alarmed. They think that the newly formed prefectures are the old communist party district committees in a new guise.

An angry Popov: "If an educated person like yourself can't read what the official papers say, this is sad."

Author and critic Yuriy Karyakin: "After everything goes up in flames and they have wrenched off our heads, you'll be saying that we had misread the papers."

The physicist Maksim Frank-Kamenetskiy: "I didn't like your example with meat on the market at all. This is politics of course, but it should be honest or else you should resign."

The well-known dissident and author Lev Timofeyev thought that private ownership is the key issue on which civil peace depends.

Larisa Piyasheva, economist: "Please give us liberals a chance to carry through the economic reform. As an economist you know that the country, Russia, and Moscow ought to have free prices. Give the liberals a chance to go ahead with an economic reform like the one in Germany, when it declared itself for economic liberalism, or like the one in Japan, when it embarked on the road of change.

Yakov Berger: "When democracy took root in the United States it wasn't on the rough copy basis: let's first establish the executive and legislative branches and live under totalitarianism in the meantime. The system of checks and balances was established right from the start."

Critic Marietta Chudakova thought it would be good to form a consultative council of the mayor consisting of intellectuals.

Mr Popov said he would agree to meet again "when necessary". In his closing remarks, he reminded the gathering that the democratic authorities had introduced bonuses for children, increased pensions, and let pensioners use public transit free of charge. They did not command people of Moscow to help out during the vegetable storages any more or to load potatoes with farmers. "But now potatoes are in short supply," someone ventured feebly.

Sverdlovsk Appeals to Yeltsin for Economic Aid

LD0311024491 Moscow TASS in English 2255 GMT 2 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Adezhda Potapova]

[Text] Yekaterinburg November 3 TASS—"The Middle Urals has come close to the brink of a disaster," says a letter, sent by senior executives of industrial enterprises, trade unions and local authorities of the Sverdlovsk region to Boris Yeltsin. The region is facing the threat of hunger, the selling of butter and edible oil has been stopped, supplies of dairy products have been reduced, bread rationing is about to be introduced with everyone receiving 300 grammes of bread per day.

Authors of the letter believe that the disintegration of economic ties "is in many respects being brought about on purpose. It objectively helps extremist forces destroy Russia's statehood." To prove their point, they cite examples of food from some regions of Russia being sold to other republics, abroad or through commodity exchanges.

Residents of the region, which is President Yeltsin's homeland, put forward 13 demands to the Yeltsin government. These include the introduction of a 100 per cent food tax concerning food deliveries to republican reserves. This may help ensure food supplies from the central reserve to industrial regions like the Urals. The letter asks for permission for the Sverdlovsk region, an area with numerous arms manufacturing enterprises, to

export armaments produced over and above the state order, as well as some metals which are in short supply.

Tatar Democratic Reforms Movement Opens Congress

LD0311130391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2027 GMT 2 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[Text] Kazan, 2 Nov (TASS)—The constituent congress of the Tatarstan Democratic Reforms Movement [Dvizheniye Demokraticheskikh Reform Tatarstana] opened in Kazan today. It will discuss the organization's rules and program documents, and will hold elections for its steering bodies.

Delivering a report at the congress, Rafael Shakurov, one of the movement's founders and a full member of the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, noted that the political situation in Tataria has its own specifics. There has been no democratic revolution there, and the partocrats are continuing to occupy key posts at all levels of administration. The democratic parties are few in number, and do not have great support among the population.

The speaker said that the movement's main tasks include the speeding up of reforms according with the interests of the people, private enterprise, development of small-size and medium business, strengthening executive authority directly elected by the people, equality of all nationalities, and the recognition of their rights to their own statehood.

Nationalities Question Controversial

OW0611015891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Kazan, there has been the constituent congress of Tatarstan's Movement for Democratic Reforms [MDR]. It was attended by 115 delegates from 12 cities and district centres and representatives from the local chapters of the Republican Party, the Social-Democratic Party, the Democratic Party of Russia, and Rutskoy's Democratic Party of Communists of Russia. The nationalist movements, such as the Tatar Public Centre and the Tatar Party for National Independence "Ittifak" (Union) have refused to participate.

The nationalities question is reported to have proved the worst controversy at the congress. After prolonged debates, the congress formulated the MDR goals in the following way: the recognition of the supranational status of the Republic of Tatarstan and its independence within the RSFSR, assuring the community of all peoples.

In the political sphere, the MDR of Tatarstan will seek to promote the emergence of a day-to-day professional parliament, nomination of its candidates for members of all bodies of government, the adoption of a new electoral law and early elections to all republican bodies of government.

Udmurt Presidency Issue Remains Unresolved

PM0411144991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Nov 91 p 1

[Freelance correspondent A. Artamonov report: "Still Without a President"]

[Text] Izhevsk—People in Izhevsk have nicknamed the extraordinary session of the republic Supreme Soviet the "Udmurt crisis." It has dragged on for almost three weeks. Important questions have been resolved: the reform of state power and management, changes to the Constitution in connection with the renaming as the Udmurt Republic, and the preparation of a draft treaty with the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic.

A law on the introduction of a presidency was adopted in the main as early as the second day of the session. The requirements for the presidency were defined: age between 30 and 60 years, a citizen of Udmurtia who has lived here at least 10 years, and elected for five years but for no more than two terms. However, the stumbling block was the point about obligatory knowledge of two languages—Russian and Udmurt. The demand that the president must be an Udmurt prevailed in the press, on the radio, at a number of meetings, and also in the demands of pickets who came to the Supreme Soviet building.

Unfortunately, the stormy debate did not produce the necessary result. And the session, which ended late into the evening, adopted a compromise decision to temporarily redistribute the powers of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and the chairman of the republic Council of Ministers. They are to be given additional rights that are needed for the more efficient and effective fulfillment of economic tasks. The package of these measures is to be approved at the next session. Presidential power has not yet come to Udmurtia.

Jewish Autonomous Oblast Seeks Republic Status

PM0611095591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Nov 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by Boris Reznik: "Will Oblast Become Republic?"]

[Text] Birobidzhan—A declaration on elevating the state-legal status of the Jewish Autonomous Oblast and turning it into an autonomous republic was adopted at a session of the oblast soviet of people's deputies held in Birobidzhan. The vote was 57 deputies for and 37 against.

The act of the republic's proclamation met with a varied reception among the oblast's inhabitants. The sessions of the rayon soviets of the two biggest rayons—Leninskiy

and Smidovichskiy Rayons—decided to categorically oppose the implementation of the declaration. The news also met with a critical reception in many labor collectives and among the local intelligentsia.

"The assertions of the present leaders of the Jewish Autonomous Oblast that as soon as the oblast becomes a republic it will receive economic advantages are unsound," says the well-known Jewish writer Roman Shoykhet. "I immediately want to ask: But at whose expense will it receive them? I think that the autonomous oblast should remain an autonomous oblast and this decision should be in the new RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Constitution."

That is one opinion. The final solution as to whether the oblast will be a republic will be taken by the Russian president and RSFSR Supreme Soviet.

International Affairs

Foreign Minister Kozyrev Plans Visit to U.S.

OW0411180791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1532 GMT 4 Nov 91

["Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents M. Mayorov and I. Porshnev; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "DP" [Diplomatic Panorama] was told in the Russian Foreign Ministry that Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, would be leaving for the U.S. "shortly." Earlier it was thought that he would leave for Washington November 2nd to meet with American leaders. There he was to acquaint them with the fundamentals of Russian President Yeltsin's proposal, which was announced on October 28th at the Fifth Russian Congress of Peoples' Deputies.

An employee at the Russian Foreign Ministry has stated in conversation with a "DP" correspondent that "we would like this visit to be very effective." With this in mind, the dates for the visit have been postponed. At this point, the time of visit is being decided in diplomatic circles.

Russian leaders are hoping that Mr. Kozyrev will have a meeting in Washington "at the highest level." It is surmised that President Bush will receive Mr. Kozyrev so that Mr. Kozyrev can deliver Yeltsin's personal message.

The Russian president's basic message will be distributed to the leaders of other Western industrially developed nations. Special representatiwes of the Russian government will be sent to Rome, Paris, London, and other capitals with this goal in mind. In the words of the Russian Foreign Ministry employee, the last details are being decided upon, with regard to the who, where, and when of the visits. "Personal messages from the Russian president will also be addressed specifically to each country," the diplomat noted.

He let it be understood that the red thread in all of Yeltsin's messages is the explanation of the reforms suggested by the Russian president. The messages will also contain an objective analysis of the present situation in the republic.

In the Russian diplomat's words, none of Yeltsin's messages contain requests for "material interventionn in the Russian market." The "Russian Descent" [not further identified] has other goals.

Many Russian peoples' deputies are of another opinion, which they have discussed with a correspondent from "DP". They feel that Yeltsin's reform proposals could hardly be successful without receiving "material intervention" from the West. The deputies maintain that it would be pointless to free prices without removing monopolies. "It's difficult to believe that we could fill store counters on our own in the near future," said Valeriy Vorontsov, a Russian peoples' deputy. In his opinion, "material intervention," which the West could deliver during Yeltsin's reforms, would sap the power of monopolies and allow Russia to move towards a real market economy.

Official on Kurils, Relations With Japan

LD0611033391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Nov 91

[From the "TV Inform" program]

[Text] It is not difficult to understand people's feelings, especially since they do not believe in promises of apartments and jobs in other regions. At at the same time, there is the idea of morality in politics, which the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes up to defend its position.

[Correspondent R. Yegorov] The first treaty on territorial division between Russia and Japan of 1855 recognizes the South Kurils as Japanese territory. Now this document can be regarded as legally invalid, but there is the joint declaration of 19 October 1956 in which the USSR Government promises to give the islands to Japan.

[G. F. Kunadze, RSFSR deputy minister of foreign affairs] This declaration precisely determines the existence of diplomatic relations between our countries. If we renounce this declaration, we will, in fact, have to adopt the position of breaking diplomatic relations with Japan, something which is obviously impossible.

[Yegorov] What pattern of solving the problem do you see as the most feasible?

[Kunadze] I consider only a pattern based on law, justice, the universally recognized norms of international law, and on the understanding and support of the residents themselves. Primarily, I would consider something based on law. You know, there is such a principle

of a democratic state that the law is above the authorities. Unfortunately, in our conditions, this is more often than not interpreted in the old way, according to our homespun rule: the law can be made to fit the bill. This is something precisely that we will not be able to permit, perhaps.

Prosecutor General on 'Illegal' Arrest of Chief

LD0411154391 Moscow TASS in English 1429 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow November 4 TASS—Soviet Prosecutor General Nikolay Trubin on Monday [4 November] said the arrest of Sergey Parfenov, former deputy commander of Latvian OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment], was illegal.

Parfenov was arrested by Latvian authorities in Russia on October 8, 1991 and taken to Riga.

"The actions of the Latvian prosecutor's office and police are illegal and violate domestic and international law," Trubin's statement said.

"A Soviet citizen cannot be extradited to a foreign state," the statement said.

Latvia, which declared independence and seceded from the Soviet Union after the August coup, is considered by the Soviet Union and Russia a foreign state.

Under a treaty between Russia and Latvia, "reciprocal extradition of criminals is regulated by a special agreement between the parties," the statement said.

However, no such agreement has been signed yet and the treaty, which has yet to be ratified by the Russian parliament, is invalid so far, Trubin said.

He said Parfenov's arrest is "a serious violation of the Sovereignty of the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation and constitutional rights of their citizens".

Trubin urged the Latvian public prosecutor to "cancel the arrest warrant and return Parfenov to Russia".

He said if the Latvian prosecutor's office has any evidence against Parfenov, they "can be transferred to the Russian prosecutor's office, which will decide whether he is guilty".

Belorussia

Popular Front Plans Two Events for 7 Nov

OW0611041491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Minsk authorities have given their go-ahead for two alternative events to be held on November 7 by the new political movement of the Working People, For Democracy, Social Progress and Justice, and by supporters of the Popular Front of Belarus [Belorussia].

Victor Chikin, co-chairman of the movement of the working people and ex-second secretary of the Minsk Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus, told IF [INTERFAX] that the movement intended to defend the interests of the working class. Peasants and intellectuals, i.e people who can hardly make both ends meet.

Representative of the Popular Front, People's Deputy of Belarus, Sergey Naumchik, said that this year the Popular Front decided not to hold massive political actions.

"We think that so far we can act in parliament and not in the streets, and this is what we must do," he said.

"Five days later, a new stage in the session of the republic's Supreme Soviet will begin," said Mr. Naumchik. "The opposition will turn up in parliament with its proposals for radical normalization of the economic and political situation in the republic," he said.

"If this does not happen, a new wave of protests, even greater than during the unforgettable April of 1991, will sweep the republic," he said. (Last April, a wave of massive strikes rolled across Belarus—IF).

Cabinet Discusses Preparations for Winter

LD0611001191 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belorussian 0400 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Summary] An ordinary sitting of the Belorussian Council of Minister Presidium was held today. It discussed the question of the economy's readiness to function during the autumn-winter period of 1992. Borshch, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Economy and Planning, made a report and analyzed the situation in that sphere. Almost every seventh enterprise and organization are ill-prepared for winter. The preparations for main and subsidiary power stations and heating networks of Belarus [Belorussia]-Energo is behind schedule. The work of the Minsk city executive committee on procuring fruits and vegetables for the capital's population was heavily criticized at the sitting. While 117,000 tonnes of potatoes are needed, only 78,000 tonnes have been procured; 15,000 tonnes of vegetables procured instead of the 58,000 tonnes needed. In shops, there is a shortage of cabbage, onions, and other vegetables, as well as apples. A difficult situation is developing concerning dairy products. The city shops are undersupplied daily by 60,000 tonnes of milk. The persons in charge were warned and instructed to take resolute measures to improve the situation.

Economic Agreement Signed With Kyrgyzstan

LD0511232791 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Belorussia and Kyrgyzstan will start at the governmental level to regulate reciprocal deliveries of more important products. Such an agreement was arrived at by participants in an inter-governmental economic agreement. It was signed today by these republics in Minsk. It is stressed that the stock-taking of deliveries and the exchange of information on their progress will be carried out on a quarterly basis. It is planned to apply economic sanctions against negligent suppliers, and a system of economic incentives is planned for successfully operating enterprises.

No Plans To Move Troops From Baltic

PM0111133091 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

[From TASS, RIA, and correspondents column: "Belorussian Military District Commander Colonel General A. Kostenko Refutes Rumors of Redeployment of Soviet Troops From Baltic to Belarus [Belorussia]"]

[Text] Colonel General Anatoliy Kostenko, commander of the Belorussian Military District, has firmly refuted rumors concerning the supposed plan to transfer Soviet troops from the Baltic to Belarus [Belorussia]. He told a RIA correspondent that he knows nothing of any such plans. "Moreover," Kostenko stressed, "I am familiar with the Belorussian parliament's position, and if such an intention were to arise anywhere, it would never be put into practice here."

Moldova

Republic To Sign Economic Commonwealth Treaty

LD0511130591 Moscow TASS in English 1147 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By correspondent Fyormr Angeliy]

[Text] Kishinev November 5 TASS—Moldavia will sign the Economic Commonwealth Treaty, its Prime Minister Valeriy Muravskiy told a government meeting today.

He said his republic still has some criticisms of the document but these will be taken up during consultations to take place shortly.

The treaty will be signed soon after that, according to Muravskiy.

President on Treaty Signing

AU0511214891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1955 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Chisinau [Kishinev] (ROMPRES) 5/11/1991—"Moldova is for the signing of the economic treaty initialed in Alma-Ata by 12 former Union republics," stated President Mircea Snegur when he received Canadian millionaire S. Hershgorin—MOLDOVA-PRES reports.

Referring to the causes that had made Moldova postpone the signing of the economic treaty, the president stressed the tendency of the centre to confer political trait to the respective document. "Moldova does not recognize the State Council but only the Interrepublic Economic Committee," Mr. Snegur said. It was for this reason that the representatives of the republic did not take part in the proceedings of the State Council chaired by Mikhail Gorbachev. The president of Moldova did not exclude the possibility of signing the economic treaty this very week.

Parliament Disagrees on Independence Vote

AU0511163391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1458 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Chisinau [Kishinev] (ROMPRES) 5/11/1991—A meeting of the Presidium of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova was held in Chisinau. It was chaired by Alexandru Mosanu, president of the parliament, "MOLDOVA-PRES" reports.

There were hot debates on an appeal signed by 136 deputies whereby an extraordinary session is called to examine, on a second reading, the law on the referendum and to adopt a decision on the organization of a republican referendum concerning the future status of the Republic of Moldova.

Deputies Nicolae Andronic, Dumitru Motpan and Gheorghe Nechit, the vice-presidents of the parliament, Mihail Plasiciuc and Victor Puscas argued the need for a referendum showing it would eliminate all questions and speculations as concerns both the republic's further belonging to the USSR and its possible union with Romania and would prove that Moldova intended to firmly follow the road to the full independence for which it opted. The members of the Presidium, Tudor Pantiru and Valise Bedelciuc, and the president of the parliament, Alexandru Mosanu, stated against the holding of such a referendum, considering it would undermine the authority of the Declaration of Independence of the Republic which the parliament adopted. Although most of the members of the Presidium voted in support of the appeal of the 136 deputies it was not accepted as it did not gather the necessary number of votes.

During the meeting a report was read by the governor of the National Bank, Leonid Talmaci, on the essence of the conflict between the National Bank and banking institutions in Transdniestria. According to the bank governor, the respective institutions had opened correspondent accounts abroad and, as a result, their means in the National Bank were blocked. A special decision on the settlement of that conflict was adopted.

Prime Minister Reviews Bucharest Visit

AU0511165191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1517 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 5/1/1991—"The development of the economic relations between Romania and the Republic of Moldova lay at the core of my interviews with Teodor Stolojan, the new Romanian prime minister," said Moldova's Premier Valeriy Muravskiy in an interview with a MOLDOVA PRES writer, after his return from a one-day visit to Bucharest. Although the Romanian Government has been reshuffled, the agreements priory reached are standing, he specified. The same holds true for the accord signed by the two countries' foreign ministers on the visa-free crossing of the frontier by the citizens of Romania and Moldova. The accord will become effective pending the solution of certain strictly technical routines.

During the talks, the two sides agreed on founding new joint ventures, both sharing the opinion that the wider they are spread, the better they can contribute to mutual economic development.

Premier Muravskiy underlined that Romania's prime minister and its president reasserted their wish to have good neighbourly relationships with Moldova. "Romania was the first to recognise independent Moldova and intends to intensify its relations with us, treating us as a full-right member of the international community, as international law provides," Moldova's premier finally stated.

Banking Agreement Signed With Romania

OW0611043991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldova and Romania have signed an agreement to create a joint Romanian-Moldovan bank and to form the corresponding government policies in both republics concerning finances, taxes and customs duties. The Moldovan prime minister, Valeriy Muravskiy, announced this in an interview with journalists while visiting Romania on business.

"We are satisfied with how the economies of Romania and Moldova are being integrated," Mr. Muravskiy stated.

Popular Front Holds Anti-Snegur Rally

LD0311182291 Moscow TASS in English 1812 GMT 3 Nov 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev November 3 TASS—A rally of Moldavia's [Moldova] Popular Front was held here today under the slogan "No to Presidential Elections in Moldavia".

Front leaders, who addressed the rally, subjected to strident criticism President Mircea Snegur's policy, accusing him of the unwillingness to help unify Moldavia and Romania.

When the rally ended, hundreds of its participants marched through the central avenue of the Moldavian capital chanting anti-presidential slogans.

Savings Bank Reportedly Stops Cash Flow

OW0611040191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1518 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan savings bank has stopped emissions of cash and additional means on all investments in checking accounts, certificate and check books, which were issued in the Russian Republic after October 1st, 1991.

'Strict Economy' in Electricity, Gas, Fuel Use

LD0511235991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1725 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Kishinev, 5 Nov (TASS)—Strict economy in the use of electricity, gas, and fuel are being introduced in Moldova. This decision was taken today by the government of the republic. At the extended sitting of the cabinet of ministers, it was noted that this measure has been caused by a sharp reduction in supplies of the energy carriers from the former Union republics. In particular, during the last two months Moldova did not receive even one-tenth of the fuel it needs. This has resulted in the harvest being left in the fields. Even ambulances are short of fuel.

A real possibility exists today of switching the mutual accounting between Moldova and other republics to the level of the world prices and to convertible currency. Therefore, the question of the possibility of signing the agreement on economic community of the sovereign states was discussed at today's sitting. Prime Minister Valeriy Muravskiy unequivocally spoke in support of signing this document.

Two Members of Riga Militia Detachment Arrested

LD0611094191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1720 GMT 6 Nov 91

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kishinev, 5 Nov (TASS)—Two members of the Riga special purpose militia detachment (OMON) have been arrested in Moldova. Ion Kostash, the Moldovan minister of internal affairs, told a MOLDOVA-PRESS correspondent that they arrived in the republic illegally and violated the order of the USSR interior minister.

The order instructed OMON members to leave Riga to continue their service in Tyumen oblast. "While illegally staying on the territory of Moldova," the minister said, "these OMON members interfered in the internal affairs of the republic and provoked conflicts between the residents of the left and right banks of the Dnestr."

Ion Kostash stressed that there are several more Riga OMON members in the Dnestr area. The Moldovan police will take all measures necessary to detain and hand them over to the Latvian judicial authorities, where criminal proceedings have been instituted against them. The Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs organs are obliged to do this by a cooperation agreement they signed with their Latvian colleagues.

Ukraine

Republic To Sign Economic Treaty 6 Nov

LD0611123991 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet today adopted a decision on signing the Economic Community Treaty, with 236 deputies voting in favor. There are 430 persons in the parliament in all.

An INTERFAX correspondent comments that over the past two days a tense debate on this issue has been under way in the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. The opposition felt that signing the agreement violates the sovereignty of the republic and does not correspond with the interests of the Ukrainian people. In the end, however, the viewpoint of the Ukrainian Government, which on Tuesday [5 November] proposed signing the Economic Community Treaty, prevailed.

According to provisional information received from unofficial sources in Moscow, the signing of the treaty with the Ukraine will take place in the Kremlin at 1530 today.

Ratification of Economic Treaty

LD0611144191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1345 GMT 6 Nov 91

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Aleksandr Litvinov and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 6 Nov (TASS)— The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet has instructed the republic's government to initial the Economic Community Treaty, with subsequent parliamentary ratification of the treaty. The people's deputies passed this decision today at a plenary sitting following discussion of the matter in the presidium, in the relevant commissions, and at the session.

Prime Minister Vitold Fokin stepped on to the rostrum several times in order to convince the people's deputies

of the need to sign the treaty. He cited several instances of the disruption of the deliveries of goods by other republics of the former Union, as a result of which production in individual sectors is being cut back in the Ukraine. At first, however, that did not have any effect upon the parliamentarians, the majority of whom think the treaty is unacceptable for the Ukraine, because several of its clauses contradict the republic's laws and the declaration of state sovereignty. A reasonable question was also put to the prime minister: Why is it that treaties concluded earlier do not apply and that suddenly this one will? Nevertheless, in the end, the government obtained agreement for the treaty to be ratified.

Today, the session approved Yevgeniy Marchuk, formerly state minister for issues of defense, national security, and states of emergency of the republic, as chairman of the national security service of the Ukraine. It also adopted the code for arbitration procedures for the Ukraine and approved the structure of the general procurator's office of the republic.

Massive Privatization To Begin 1 Jan

OW0511013291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2353 GMT 4 Nov 91

[From "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukraine, with the second largest economic potential of all the republics, intends to sell to private owners small and medium-sized enterprises beginning January 1, 1992, announced Vladimir Lanovoi, the Ukrainian minister charged with state policy concerning property and economic enterprise. He stated that the administration planned to privatize 60-70% of small enterprises "within a year and a half." 60-65% of large industrial complexes, according to a proposed plan, will be privatized over the course of four years.

In an interviev to INTERFAX, Mr. Lanovoi confirmed that "in the second half of 1992", the Ukraine will realize money reform, which will open the door to the introduction of a Ukrainian national hard currency.

Answering a question concerning paying off the USSR's foreign debt, Mr. Lanovoi said that "the Ukraine intended to meet its own financial obligations" to the West.

Deputies Want Referendum Wording Changed

OW0611014191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of 16 people's deputies of the USSR from the Ukraine have lodged a request concerning the December 1 republican referendum with the leader of the Ukrainian parliament Leonid Kravchuk. The lawmakers say that, since the Ukrainian people last March confirmed the "need to preserve the political union of republics," the political, juridical, social, and economic implementation of the Ukrainian Independence Act will be possible only if the question of secession from the Union is decided in a referendum, too.

The lawmakers say that putting the Independence Act to the vote in a referendum "without making public the concept of independence or linking the wording of the question for the referendum with the question whether the Ukraine will remain in the Union with other republics or secede from it is, as a matter of fact, tantamount to disrespect for the will of the people."

Crimean Parliament To Pass Referendum Law

OW0611123591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An extraordinary parliamentary session in the Crimean Autonomous Republic is expected on November 22 to approve a law on referendums raising the question of the Crimea's secession from the Ukraine and incorporation into Russia. The Crimean parliamentarian Yuri Meshkov and a group of Afghan war veterans have held a 12-day hunger strike to press the demand for deciding the matter by referendum.

Parliament Adopts Laws on State Borders

LD0511193491 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 0100 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpts] The Supreme Soviet today adopted a law on the state frontiers of Ukraine. It singled out that Ukraine is an independent state and shall therefore ensure its existence within the present-day frontiers. Our republic has no territorial claims to its neighbors and aspires to live with them in peace and friendship and to develop mutually advantageous cooperation. The frontier issues with neighboring states shall be solved with Ukraine on a bilateral basis with obligatory adherence to international norms. The law clearly registers the regime of state frontiers of Ukraine, including mutual relations with other countries. All persons, transport means, cargoes, and other property that cross the state border of Ukraine are subjected to frontier and customs control. Military ships belonging to foreign states have the right to only peaceful navigation through the territorial Sea of Ukraine and in accordance with its legislation and international treaties. The violation of state borders of the republic without its agreement will be punishable by the existing legislation of Ukraine.

There are new introductions in the law that have long been awaited for. This is the renunciation of so-called frontier zones, that is closed zones, as was the case earlier, to which visits were restricted or completely banned. The deputies carefully considered the issue pertaining to the reliable protection of state frontiers of Ukraine. A number of essential amendments were adopted, linked with the mechanism of protecting the

territorial integrity of the republic. Some deputies proposed the introduction of obligatory demarcation of the republic's frontiers around its entire borderline, especially with the Russian Federation and Belarus [Belorussia]. [passage omitted]

The law on the state borders of Ukraine was adopted with a majority of votes. Another draft law, Frontier Troops of Ukraine, became an organic supplement to this document and to the mechanism for its realization. This military formation is commissioned with ensuring the inviolability of state borders of the republic. Up till now Ukraine did not have such a structure and sent its citizens to serve in the Frontier Troops, which were and continue to be under the orders of the central command in Moscow. Now exclusively Ukrainians will be serving in the Frontier Guards. The republic's Cabinet of Ministers has been commissioned with holding talks with the center in a matter of days in order to stop the already-in-the-near future formation of frontier units made up of former Soviet Army personnel. The law was approved and this, naturally, adds confidence to the fulfillment of another important paragraph in the program for the building of an independent Ukrainian state.

Parliament Adopts Customs Code

LD0511200491 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpts] In general it should be singled out that today our parliamentarians worked fruitfully. Besides the three general documents, they adopted the customs code of Ukraine. It is directed at insuring the adherence of rights and obligations in the sphere of customs affairs by customs, other state bodies, subjects of former economic and management activities, and, at the same time, by civilians. As registered in the law, it will proceed from the independent policy of Ukraine and in every way promote market economy, the increase of business activity of work collectives and representatives of private business. The new service will be managed by a state customs committee that will coordinate all customs houses, which will be set up as a single system. New customs privileges shall be established in part for foreign investors who wish to invest capital into the economic complex of Ukraine.

We are just beginning to establish a customs service, but, surprising as it may seem, many of its paragraphs today function on the borders between Ukraine and the Russian Federation. This neighboring republic outstripped us in the introduction of the liberalization of prices, but lags behind in the production of many types of agricultural goods. Herein lies the mass movement to Ukraine from Russia of enthusiasts to buy foodstuffs at a much lower price. [passage omitted]

The concrete development of the mentioned law was registered in another not less important document on state duties. This tandem is to efficiently work for the economy of the republic, which is emerging on the path of market relations.

Carpathian MD Aide Denies Removal of Arms

PM0111152491 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Nov 91 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Major General P. Falin, first deputy chief of staff of the Carpathian Military District, by Reserve Colonel S. Kutz under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Rumors Unfounded"; date and place not stated]

[Text] Lvov—In connection with the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet's adoption of the declaration of independence, the law on the creation of their own armed forces, and other legislative acts, there have been rumors of the removal from the Ukraine, including the Carpathian Military District [MD], of combat equipment, arms, nuclear munitions, and other property. We asked Major General P. Falin, first deputy chief of staff of the Carpathian MD, to comment on this.

"There are no grounds for such statements," the general said. "No combat equipment, still less nuclear weapons, could be removed from the district without the supervision of the railroad administration and the agreement of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. In Lvov Oblast, for instance, a working commission has been set up, headed by Z. Kotik, deputy chairman of Lvov City Soviet Executive Committee. It includes the deputy chief of the Lvov Railroad and a representative of the okrug's military communications service, Lieutenant Colonel V. Tatarinov. It monitors the dispatch of all equipment and armaments from the district and also troop movements. Similar commissions exist in other oblasts.

"Answering a question from V. Durdinets, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet commission on defense and national security questions, concerning an instance of troop movements, we recently reported that the subunits had been returning from the firing range after scheduled exercises. All these are movements within the district, and they are agreed beforehand with the oblast organs of power. As for shipments of the combat equipment of troops under central jurisdiction—strategic and air defense forces—these take place under licenses issued by oblast soviet executive committees. One copy of the license is retained at the railroad directorate's military shipments department. The district command has received no USSR Defense Ministry instructions on sending combat equipment or arms, including nuclear missile arms, outside the district without the knowledge of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry."

Armenia

Leader Flies to Moscow; Fuel Crisis Worsens

LD0611111591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] A critical situation developed in Armenia on 5 November. Here with the details from Yerevan is Armen Dulyan.

[Dulyan] Practically all industrial enterprises have ground to a halt. In many homes there is no light or gas. Only bakeries and health facilities are being supplied with power and fuel. This extreme situation developed following an incident on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. On 4 November the Armenian village of (Kizhan) came under intensive artillery fire from (Khremlu) village in Azerbaijan, and a massive assault was then launched on the village. Self-defense forces were compelled to resist, and as a result, according to Azerbaijani figures, four of the attackers were killed. After this, according to Azerbaijani statements, local inhabitants cut off the gas pipeline near (Khremlu), which supplied fuel to Armenia. In spite of a mutual accord that had been reached, gunfire from Azerbaijan was continuing during the evening of 5 November.

The fuel crisis in Armenia is made worse by the fact that for about six weeks the Azerbaijanis had also been blockading the railway, and now, as winter approaches, the republic's fuel reserves are half empty. Almost a month ago a second gas pipeline, which supplies the earthquake zone with fuel, was blown up on the border between the two republics.

As a result of the unprecedented situation, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has flown to Moscow. Speaking in the legislature on 5 November, Grant Bagratyan, acting chairman of the Armenian Council of Ministers, described the Azerbaijanis' action as an attempt to bring Armenia to her knees and to exert political, and perhaps also military, pressure on Nagorno-Karabakh. He reported that he had been in telephone contact with Ivan Silayev, and had informed him of the exceptionally difficult situation in Armenia. Grant Bagratyan urged the inhabitants of the republic to maintain restraint and not to yield to panic. He stated that there is sufficient flour in Armenia and as much bread as is needed will be baked. The government is preparing emergency measures which will be announced on 6 November.

That was the SNARK news agency, specially for Radio Rossii. This is Armen Dulyan in Yerevan.

Leader Appeals to Moscow Over Azerbaijan

LD0511203691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1935 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Yerevan, 5 Nov (TASS)—Azerbaijani military formations are concentrating around Nagorno-Karabakh and on the borders with Armenia, it is ascertained in an appeal from Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Acting Premier Grant Bagratyan. This was sent today to Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yelstin, Nursultan Nazarbayev and leaders of other republics, the ARMENPRESS agency reported. In particular, the appeal says that in Azerbaijan recently "a kind of competition has been launched in choosing aggressive actions against the Armenian population in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and the border territories of Armenia."

Since this morning, the supply of gas from the gas pipeline that runs through Azerbaijan has been completely cut off, and railways and roads have been blocked again. "It is obvious that all of this is in preparation for military actions planned by the Azerbaijani authorities against Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia," the appeal says.

Expressing readiness to solve all issues by means of talks and in the spirit of the Zheleznovodsk communique, the leadership of the Republic of Armenia "insists, moreover, on the use of political and economic sanctions against Azerbaijan by the republics that signed the Economic Community Treaty."

Gas Line From Moscow 'Completely Shut Off'

LD0511213191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1441 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By correspondent Koryun Khumaryan from Yerevan]

[Text] Good evening. The session of the Armenian Supreme Soviet is continuing in Yerevan today. The legislature is discussing the law on the republican Supreme Soviet. Following adoption of the law on presidential power, the adoption of a law on the Supreme Soviet becomes a necessity for the clear demarcation of the functions of the president and of the Supreme Soviet, and of executive and legislative powers. All the more so, since the president of our republic, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, embarks on his direct responsibilities somewhere around the middle of this month, and he promises to announce the structure of presidential power and of the cabinet which is formed.

Meanwhile the energy crisis in Armenia took a fresh turn today. The pipeline through which natural gas comes to Armenia from the Russian Federation has been completely shut off. It was shut off on the section of the pipeline which crosses Azerbaijan. Adding to this the electric power shortage and the lack of heavy diesel fuel, coal, and other energy sources, you will probably understand what a tense situation Armenia finds itself in today.

And another theme that has to be mentioned today: This is connected with the yesterday's news heard on Mayak, referring to the BBC, saying that an outflow of the Kurdish population from Armenia is being noted. In connection with this, the Kurdish broadcasting department has issued an official report on Radio Armenia which says that Kurds living in Armenia have equal

rights with Armenians in all spheres of life. The Kurdish newspaper (RIAD AZA), the only periodical in this language on the territory of the former USSR, has been published in Yerevan for more than 60 years. A Kurdish studies department has been operating at the Orientology Institute of the Armenian Academy of Sciences for the same time. A 90-minute radio program in Kurdish is broadcast daily. In villages where Kurds live, schools teach Kurdish language and literature, and text books for these schools are published in Yerevan, as well as works by Kurdish writers. Kurdish-language groups and sections are being formed at the relevant higher educational establishments in the republic to keep up the numbers of qualified teachers. Such a section has just been opened at the (David Ankhakht) humanities university. Kurdish writers' sections operate within the Armenian Union of Writers. Armenia rightly considers itself one of the internationally recognized centers for study of Kurdish culture and for Kurdish studies. In the course of seven decades, a Kurdish intelligentsia has formed in Armenia, and has taken a vigorous part in the academic, cultural, public, political and other spheres of life in the republic. In the referendum on the status of the republic, Kurds voted along with Armenians for an independent Armenia, confident that this would open up fresh prospects for freedom of life and work.

As for the emigration of certain Kurdish families from Armenia, the report goes on, this is taking place within the framework of natural and minimal emigration, and is not a consequence of any change in the traditional kindly attitude toward them on the part of the Armenian people. Certain Armenian families are also currently leaving the republic, either with the aim of family reunification or as a consequence of the difficult living conditions that Armenia has found itself in following the earthquake and the permanent economic blockades enforced by Azerbaijan.

There is another fact, the report says: In 1988, a certain portion of the Kurdish population which follows the same religion as the Azerbaijanis did indeed leave Armenia along with Azerbaijanis. Such is the truth about the position of Kurds in Armenia, the Kurdish department of Radio Armenia says in conclusion.

I would add one more thing to all this. There is no smoke without fire. The fact of the matter is that the Kurdish community in Armenia is today undergoing very complex processes. A contingent of people has emerged from this Kurdish community, calling themselves (Yezidi). They want to have nothing to do with the Kurds as an ethnic unit. The relations between these two groups of the population are causing certain concern in the republic, as well, and I think that this has in a certain sense promoted the increased emigration of Kurds from Armenia. But this is a very, very delicate matter, you can understand that ethnic relations here are developing in a very complicated way, and most likely a serious analysis of the processes going on in the community will be needed. I think that the Armenian Academy of Sciences and other institutes which deal with ethnic problems will look into this question and make their decisions. That is all I have for the listeners today.

Azerbaijan

Parliament Recognizes Georgia's Independence

OW0611030391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliament of Azerbaijan has recognized the independence of Georgia. In a special statement on the issue, the republican parliament said it hoped that free and democratic Georgia would abide by the international principles of inter-state relations and cooperation and the bilateral treaties of friendship and goodneighbourliness and take an active part in building a united and safe home in the Caucasus.

The statement says that the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan respects the act of the restoration of Georgia's state independence lost as a result of outside aggression in 1921.

'Peace Action' With Armenia, Russia Noted

LD0311115191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Nov 91

["Vesti" newscast interview with Azerbaijan President Ayaz Niyazovich Mutalibov by unidentified correspondent and report by correspondent Nakhysh on interview with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan; date and place of interviews not given—recorded]

[Text] Today we received the first reports from Yerevan and Baku, prepared jointly by Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Russian correspondents.

[Nakhysh] While preparing for a joint peace action by journalists we were asked many times whether we experience any fear and whether this action will yield any effect at all, since for several years Azerbaijan and Armenia have been engaged in an undeclared war. That is why it was so very important for us to hear the opinion of the president of the Azerbaijan republic.

[Correspondent] Ayaz Niyazovich [Mutalibov], do you think there is any point in carrying out such actions?

[Mutalibov] No doubt there is. First, this action is peaceful as far as I understand. Its aim is to render assistance in removing the tension.

[Correspondent] What steps does the Azerbaijan Republic intend to take in settling this conflict which has been going on for such a long time?

[Mutalibov] First and foremost, we have already made a step. We intend to revive that former state of goodwill which was a characteristic feature for the entire century, I would say.

[Nakhysh] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received the group of journalists which was sent to Yerevan on the first day of their stay there. Having familiarized himself with the program for the joint peace action of journalists, Ter-Pertosyan expressed the hope that as a result of this initiative both sides will produce information which would be maximally objective, and this will be the next step to peacefully settling the conflict and establishing the long-awaited mutual understanding between the peoples.

Further Reportage on NKAO Incidents

Sources Predict Attacks

OW0611030991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Reliable sources in Yerevan say full-scale combat operations by Azerbaijan against Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia's border areas are possible in the near future. There is likely to be an attack against three Armenian villages—Buzuluk, Hanashyt, and Erkech, regained by Armenian militants from the Azerbaijani Special Police.

The same sources say that, on November 6, USSR Interior Ministry troops will take part in the settlement of Azerbaijanis in the village of Tug. The USSR Interior Ministry has asked Armenia's Interior Ministry to avoid taking any actions in the village of Tug (populated by an Armenian majority and Azerbaijani minority). The Armenian population have been asked to refrain from resisting the settlement of Azerbaijanis.

Curfew Reduced Two Hours

LD0511143191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1229 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Stepanakert, 5 Nov (TASS)—The curfew has been reduced by two hours in the area effected by the state of emergency in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding rayons of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It is now in effect from 0000 until 0500. This decision was made by commandant Major General Nikolay Zhinkin as a result of appeals from citizens and in order to create conditions for the normal operation of enterprises that have three shifts.

The KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY (KAN) has reported that in the first nine months of this year over half of all crimes reported in Stepanakert were actually committed during curfew hours. The heads of the town's law enforcement bodies have expressed the hope that the reduction in the curfew will also reduce the number of infringements of the law.

Troops' Presence 'Not Expedient'

LD0611030691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1655 GMT 6 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Stepanakert, 5 Nov (TASS)—The presence of internal troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and the adjacent rayons of the Republic of Azerbaijan is not expedient. This is the conclusion reached on Monday [4 November] by a meeting of officers from the military headquarters of the state of emergency rayon and the unit of internal troops located in Nagorno-Karabakh. The meeting sent an appeal to the presidents of the USSR and RSFSR, the ministers of internal affairs of the Union and Russia, and the session of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Along with increases in the number of terrorist acts against civilians and servicemen, stressed the document which has been adopted, the official bodies of power have begun to create obstacles in the way of food deliveries, fuel, and other supplies, and are provoking conflicts between the Azerbaijan militia and servicemen. During October, troop detachments, outposts, and aircraft were attacked 15 times, resulting in six people wounded. There were instances of military vehicles being impounded by staff of the internal affairs bodies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and servicemen and vehicles were examined at gunpoint. And this on the territory of an area where there is a state of emergency and where the military headquarters are regarded as the governing body and where decisions and instructions from the commandant should be binding for all.

The situation that has developed places the internal troops personnel of the USSR ministry of internal affairs in an ill-defined legal position and creates a lack of confidence that their status and protection will be observed: this is the opinion of the officers' meeting.

'Ordinary People' Want Peace

PM0611112391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Nov 91 p 1

[By correspondent T. Yesilbayev under the "From the Hot Spots" rubric; "Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast: Understudies Have Stayed On"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—A meeting between journalists and the interim working team of Kazakh observers that has just returned from Nagorno-Karabakh was held at the Kazakh SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet press center. USSR People's Deputy Ye. Auyelbekov, team leader and adviser to the Kazakh SSR president, told the assembled journalists about the situation in the conflict zone and the implementation of the provisions formulated in Zheleznovodsk.

During their stay in the conflict zone, the Kazakh observers visited all areas of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] and met with inhabitants

of Armenian and Azerbaijani villages. Ordinary people from both sides were sympathetic to the observers' peacemaking mission. But there are certain forces which have no interest in settling the conflict. Ye. Auyelbekov noted that an understudy team is working in the NKAO until the main team of observers returns.

"Our aim," Yerkin Nurzhanovich said in conclusion, "is to help the peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia to establish peace."

Commandant, Observers on Situation

NC0511210091 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 5 Nov 91

[By correspondent Aleksandr Grigoryan]

[Text] Stepanakert, 4 Nov (ARMENPRES)—The stabilization of Nagorno-Karabakh was discussed today during a meeting between Major General Zhinkin, the new commandant of the state of emergency region; a group of Russian and Kazakh observers; and the economic aktiv of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.

General Zhinkin briefed the group on his visit to Baku where he met with Azerbaijani President Mutalibov on how to resolve the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The military commandant briefly informed the group on the issues he raised at the meeting in Baku, the most important of which were uninterrupted delivery of freight to Nagorno-Karabakh, freedom of movement on all roads, normal functioning of Stepanakert's airport and rail station, the mandatory presence of a recognized executive authority in Nagorno-Karabakh, and the voluntary handing over of arms by various organizations from both sides. The commandant emphasized that his office would work to accomplish the issues. He said that he hopes that the airport will resume operations soon.

The Russian and Kazakh observers also focused their attention on the aforementioned problems, noting that they believe the two parties need to hold another high-level meeting.

During the meeting, General Zhinkin left the impression that he is a determined and principled commandant ready to tackle the most complicated matters in a practical manner.

Tomorrow he will go to Agdam with the observers to continue his efforts.

Parliament Decrees 7, 8 Nov 'Work Days'

PM0611102191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Nov 91 Union Edition p 1

[IZVESTIYA, TASS, INTERFAX, REUTER roundup report]

[Text] The second session of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, 12th Convocation, has adopted the Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on Changes and Amendments to the Labor Law Code.

On the basis of this law the parliament has decided to exclude the words "November 7 and 8 are the anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution" from the Labor Law Code. These days are thus considered work days in Azerbaijan.

Reportage on Prime Minister's Turkey Visit

WA0511191891

For Turkish reportage on the 3-4 November "private" visit by Gasan Gasanov, prime minister of Azerbaijan, to Turkey, including reports on his talks with Suleyman Demirel, leader of the True Path Party who has been invited by Turkish President Ozal to form a new Turkish government, please see the Turkey section of the 5 November West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Georgia

Parliament Suspends Law on Political Parties

LD0511203891 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Nov 91

[KAVKAZIONI correspondent report from the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] The Georgian Supreme Soviet session has suspended the law on the activities of political parties and sociopolitical movements. This means, in effect, the end of democracy in that sovereign republic.

Further on South Ossetia Conflict

Situation 'Very Tense'

LD0511215491 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The sociopolitical situation in the crisis points of South Ossetia is still very tense. The massive shelling of Tskhinvali, the rayon center Znauri, and surrounding Ossetian villages does not stop. Last night the oblast center was fired on again by heavy machine guns, grenade launchers, Allai-1 hail guns, and by long-range rockets. As a result, houses were damaged in the northern and southern parts of the town. Some municipal services were put out of operation. According to preliminary reports, eight people were taken to the hospital with gunshot wounds. Ossetian self-defense units fired back in order to supress the weapon emplacements of the fighters in the Georgian villages Nikozia, Tamarasheni, Eredvi, and Ergneti.

Tbilisi Denounces Media 'Lies'

AU0511154491 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1406 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Statement issued by the press center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Tbilisi; date not given]

[Text] Union television and the central newspapers are publishing information almost daily claiming that the Ossetian population is being massacred in the former South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast and that almost every night missiles and artillery shells are being fired on Tskhinvali and Znauri. For example, PRAVDA, in its 4 November edition, published information gleaned by TASS claiming that on 3 November, Georgian militants again attacked Tskhinvali and that in addition to the usual missiles and shells, they used new long-range missiles; the Ossetian population has already abandoned all the villages in the Tskhinvali and Znauri Rayons.

In connection with this, this morning we contacted Colonel Tengiz Epitashvili, plenipotentiary extraordinary of the president of the Republic of Georgia in Shida Kartli [area of Georgia into which South Ossetia has been reincorporated by the Georgian Government under its historical name of Samachablo] and asked him for his opinion concerning this information published by the central press and television. He stated: "It has already been announced on Georgian television that since 17 and 18 October, there has been a complete halt to the shooting and bloodshed in Samachablo [South Ossetia]. Units of USSR internal troops together with their commander are implementing effective measures to guarantee the security of the Georgian and Ossetian population in the region. I also consider it necessary to describe as complete lies and disinfomation all the information being given by the central television and press, including that published in PRAVDA. It is aimed at (?undermining) the stabilization that has recently begun in the region and at misleading the public at large. I have decided to make an announcement in connection with this for central television in the next few days. Yesterday, one commander of a unit of USSR internal troops and I sent an official letter to USSR Minister of Internal Affairs Barannikov pointing out that the disinformation being spread by the central press and television is making the situation in the region more tense and is preventing the restoration of peace.

Bombs Explode at Two Parliamentarians' Homes

OW0511134991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During the night of November 4th half an hour apart, two home-made bombs exploded in different regions of Tbilisi. According to information from the Georgian Ministry of the Interior, the first bomb went off at the home of parliamentarian T. Matashvili. The second bomb exploded at the home of another MP[member of parliament], Gela Chorgolashvili. There have been no injuries, just material damages.

Both deputies are active members of parliamentary opposition.

Parliament Chairman Views Political Situation

AU0511083391 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 1 Nov 91 p 3

[Interview with Akaki Asatiani, chairman of the Georgian parliament, by Zoltan Szalai in Budapest; date not given: "We Must Establish a New State"]

[Text] Georgia expects the countries of the world, including Hungary, to help it in its independence efforts, but it understands that establishing diplomatic relations can only be part of a process, Akaki Asatiani said to our correspondent in his interview. Akaki Asatiani is in Hungary on an official visit.

[Szalai] Mr. Chairman, to what extent was the promotion of Gerogia's diplomatic recognition the goal of your visit?

[Asatiani] The main goal of my present visit is establishing relations and laying the foundation for interparliamentary contacts. Interparliamentary contacts can eventually become the basis of interstate relations. We would naturally like to have diplomatic recognition, but we are not in a hurry; it can be the result of a longer process. My visit also has a symbolic value for us because we were received by the representatives of a free and independent state that also used to be under Soviet suppression.

[Szalai] For the time being, the world appears to be unwilling to recognize the Georgian state.

[Asatiani] Georgia declared its independence in April 1991. We believe that the world is not in a hurry because East Europe came first and then the Baltics, and the world is convinced that this has to be a gradual process. Until now, only Romania recognized Georgia, presumably because it did not want to accept the independence of just Moldova. Naturally, we were nevertheless very happy about it. Of course, we first have to settle our relations with Moscow, but it would be desirable if the countries of the world supported our efforts in some way.

[Szalai] Political independence is inseparable from the issue of economic independence. It is a fact that Georgia's economy is rather heavily dependent on the former Soviet Union and mainly Russia.

[Asatiani] I would not put it this way; political and economic independence are two separate things. None of the countries of the world has a completely independent economy. Let us just look at Russia: It has enormous economic resources, but it also depends on Georgia in certain respects. We are interdependent. Political independence can also help the cause of economic independence because a sovereign country can more easily make

economic agreements with other countries. At the same time, we have also made some progress in this area, because we have very good relations with Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and even with Russian business circles.

[Szalai] Let us turn to the issues of Georgian domestic policy. There is an actual war in South Ossetia. In your view, how can the bloodshed be stopped?

[Asatiani] We do not assess this war as a war between Georgians and Ossetians. This is a struggle between Tbilisi and Moscow for Georgian areas. Ossetians are being used to discredit the Georgian Republic. Gangs are fighting each other, and these gangs do not even take the trouble to cover themselves with nationalist slogans. Ossetians are killing Georgians, and Georgians are killing Ossetians—no legal authority exists there anymore. Of course, Moscow is in the background: Moscow incited the Ossetians, but now the Ossetians feel cheated because Moscow does not unequivocally support them anymore. We managed to solve the problem with Abkhazia, but the Ossetian territories are important for Moscow. We hope that Yeltsin will act differently and that this issue will also be resolved through the general democratization in Russia.

[Szalai] The once united Georgian opposition groups have turned against each other in recent months, and violent intermezzos are not rare. What is the reason for that?

[Asatiani] We do not have democratic traditions. From this point of view, Hungary was much more fortunate than we are because you only lived under communism for 40 years. Many people think in Georgia that people with different views can only be convinced of our right with the naked fist. A multiparty system did not exist here, nor did parliamentarianism. An opposition that has weapons is no longer an opposition; these people are putchists who want to assert their will by force. I do not claim that we already have democracy and that we do not make any mistakes, but we still have to learn things because we have no experience at all. Legality did not exist under the Soviet regime, and we have to establish a new state now.

[Szalai] How do you assess President Gamsakhurdia? He has recently been accused—and not without any foundation—of forming some kind of autocratic leadership.

[Asatiani] It would be hard for me to assess our president objectively because all my life I looked upon him as a hero fighting for our country's independence. I feel that he deserves to be at the head of the Georgian state. Of course, as any human being, Gamsakhurdia can also make mistakes, especially because he is not an experienced politician; he originally studied arts, and it is not fair to use his mistakes deriving from these facts for propaganda purposes.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev's Involvement in Rally Denied

OW0211025791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A rally has been held. Friday, near Alma-Alta city council by the opposition parties ALASH and ZHELTOKSAN. An INTERFAX correspondent reports that the demonstrators demanded back their electoral rolls and money confiscated by the militia from two canvassing tents pitched in the central street.

Oct 31 militiamen struck down those traditional Kazakh tents in Gorgy St. used by the ZHELTOKSAN party as electioneering base to canvass for their leader and presidential candidate Hasen Kazhahmetov. Lists with 40,000 signatures in his support and 13,000 roubles subscription money were carried away.

The press service of the Kazakh president has announced in the local press that the action in Gorky St. has nothing to do with Nursultan Nazarbayev. The incumbent President Nazarbayev also stands for the office in the direct presidential election to be held in a month's time.

Kyrgyzstan

President Supports Yeltsin Reform Program

LD0511191391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1734 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 5 Nov (TASS)—The president of Kyrgyzstan fully supports the economic reform program set out by Boris Yeltsin at the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, the press secretary of the Russian president has announced.

During a meeting between the leaders of the two republics today, an accord was reached on signing during the first 10 days of November an economic agreement for 1992.

Akayev Wants To Learn From Bush Apparatus

OW0611121191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to IF's [INTERFAX] sources, during his recent stay in Washington President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan discussed the opporunities for sending members of his team to take lessons from members of George Bush's apparatus.

Ednon Karabayev, head of A. Akayev's apparatus, told IF that the goal is to learn how to cleverly organize the presidential press service, and to increase the efficiency of Mr. Akayev's planners and speech-writers.

The presidential team, according to Mr. Karabayev, should be sufficiently dynamic to be able to flexibly change the direction of Mr. Akayev's efforts if the changing situation so requires.

Islamic Conference Membership Bid Denied

LD0311155891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Chairman of Kyrgyzstan's Supreme Soviet Medetkan Sherimkulov, who was on a visit to Iran, has refuted reports which recently appeared in the mass media to the effect that Kyrgyzia has applied for membership in the Islamic Conference Organization. We are primarily interested in economic ties, Sheremkulov stated. We do not intend to make use of Islamic fundamentalism and become members of the Islamic Conference.

Tajikistan

Republic Appeal to Citizens Detailed

LD0511172291 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 5 Nov 91

["Appeal to people of Tajikistan" issued by Presidium of Supreme Soviet of Republic of Tajikistan—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear fellow countrymen! The [word indistinct] acute and tense political situation that has arisen in our republic obligates the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, at such an important moment—one that determines our fate—to appeal to its dear people. Our dear Tajikistan which is experiencing exceptionally difficult economic and social conditions has been changed, during the election campaign, into a scene of debates and attempts at factionalism, localism, and narrow-mindedness.

If we glance back not too far into the history of our mountainous country, we can vividly see how the children of our (?suffering) people Kadruddin Aini, Bobodzhon Ghafurov, Shirinsha Shokimov, Nasratulla Mahkum, Abdurahim Hodzhiboyev, Chinor Imamov, Abdulkodir Nurridinov, and others uniting the Tajiks of the various regions of Central Asia through great difficulty and effort rescued our dear country from the claws of the forces of (?nationalism) and reaction, and created an independent republic for us. History cannot forget the enthusiastic meetings of the people of Kanibadam, Ura-Tyube, and Khodzhand which were held towards the end of the 1920's, demanding the entry of these areas into [word indistinct] Tajikistan.

In the sight of our fathers and forefathers and with the participation of all the people of Tajikistan, automobile roads were constructed to the roof of the world, the legendary Badakhshan. Our fathers and mothers together with representatives of our fellow Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, and Turkmen brothers and representatives from other nationalities worked hand-in-hand to construct the great Ferghana (?canal), [words indistinct].

Not looking at the failures in the (?cultural) and [words indistinct] our people became independent,listened to their sisters and brothers, and became related [through intermarriage]. The unity of our people and the mutual understanding of our people became the reasons why we currently think of the (?fate) of the Tajiks living outside the borders of the republic.

During these important days all of us are answerable for the future of our dear republic. We all want to make her blooming and fertile and our people free and proud. We are hopeful that in this good task no one will remain indifferent.

The full text of the appeal will be published in the press.

Bank Official Refutes Rumors of New Currency

OW0611005191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the National Bank of Tajikistan Tukhtaboh Gafarov has denied the rumor that his republic is planning to introduce a currency of its own. Addressing journalists, he stressed the point that the treaty of economic cooperation signed by eight republics provides not only for a common economic space but also for a single zone of the ruble's circulation.

Draft Governed by USSR General Staff Accord

PM0511151991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Nov 91 First Edition p 3

["Direct Line" report by S. Ergashev: "Draft Regulated by Agreement"]

[Text] The draft campaign now under way in the Republic of Tajikistan is being regulated by an agreement adopted just beforehand by the republic government and the USSR Armed Forces General Staff. The sides stressed the importance of maintaining unified Armed Forces.

Draftees from Tajikistan will serve on the territory of sovereign republics which have signed the economic community treaty. Special clauses in the agreement between the government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the USSR Armed Forces General Staff are geared to humanizing military service. In particular, provision is made for labor collectives to maintain permanent contacts with troop units and for draftees' parents to be compulsorily informed about where their son has started serving and what specialty he is going to learn in the Army or Navy. On completion of service, servicemen discharged into the reserve will be transported back to their home area in an organized manner. The conditions under which a draftee is entitled to a deferment of the draft are also defined.

Uzbekistan

More Reportage on Cypriot President's Visit

PM0411094991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Nov 91 Union Edition p 2

["Direct Line" report by Andrey Orlov: "Cypriot President's Family Affairs"]

[Text] Tashkent—A meeting has taken place between Uzbekistan President I. Karimov and Cypriot President Y. Vasiliou.

During the talk the presidents exchanged opinions on the political and economic situation and then Yeoryios Vasiliou thanked the Uzbek people for their warm attitude toward his family and thousands of Greek political emigres.

This is the first visit to Uzbekistan for the Cypriot president himself, but he has a direct link with the republic. He visited Chirchik, where his father Vasos Yeoryis Vasiliou worked 25 years ago as a doctor in the local hospital. In those far-off days Monika, the president's sister, was studying at the Tashkent theaterical institute. The eminent guests now had special feelings on visiting the places connected with their family's life.

To this day over 15,000 Greeks continue to live in Uzbekistan and 18,000 Greek political emigres have returned home since 1965.

Supreme Soviet Against 7 Nov Demonstrations

PM0511102091 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 91 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Working Day 8 November"]

[Text] The Uzbek Supreme Soviet Presidium has decided that it is inadvisable to hold demonstrations or other public festive functions on the day off, 7 November. November 8 has been declared a working day in the republic and remuneration will be in line with labor legislation.

Republic Cotton Harvest Plan Fulfilled

PM0411124091 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[Andrey Orlov report: "Where the White Caravan Will Go"]

[Text] Tashkent—The increase in the purchase price for cotton in Uzbekistan has made it possible to successfully fulfill the year's plan. Around 4.5 million tonnes of raw cotton has been harvested from the fields.

And the harvest is still continuing. Against the backdrop of all our difficulties and the crisis this is undoubtedly a major economic victory. Particularly if you bear in mind the natural disasters which hit Uzbekistan this spring—downpours, hail, torrents, and the resowing of cotton over a huge area.

According to preliminary estimates the republic's farms will earn more than 300 million rubles in net income. Moreover, they can dispose of 5 percent of the cotton and all above-plan fiber as they see fit. Basically, Uzbekistan is waiting for customers.